

Hafa Adai!

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ON CHALLENGE TO CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SAFE ACT PROVISIONS

Murphy: \$1K tax on handguns sets terrible precedent

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. Army veteran Paul M. Murphy says the \$1,000 excise tax on handguns sets a terrible precedent against fundamentally protected rights.

"Nowhere, 'till now, in the history of the United States of America has there ever a \$1,000 tax imposed on a handgun," said Murphy in his memorandum filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

He asserted that such tax that the CNMI imposed under the newly enacted law, Special Act for Firearms

and Enforcement (SAFE), is clearly in direct contravention to the U.S. District Court for the NMI's ruling that the people of the Commonwealth have a right to possess handguns for self-defense.

Murphy's lawsuit against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero and Finance Secre-

tary Larrisa Larson challenged the constitutionality of some provisions of SAFE, which extensively revised the gun control laws of the CNMI.

Murphy argued, among other things, that the enforcement of some provisions in the SAFE Act and CNMI Weapons Control Act has

See MURPHY on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth right, leads the delegation of the CNMI Republican Party in the Republican National Convention held last week at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio.

GOP to appoint territories advisory committee

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Republican Party will be appointing an advisory committee con-

sisting of representatives from the five U.S. territories. This was among those included and unanimously adopted in their party platform in the recently concluded Republican Na-

tional Convention at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio.

Businessman-turned-reality-show-star Donald Trump and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence were nominated to lead

the GOP's bid to retake the White House against the Democrat's presumptive nominees Hillary Clinton and Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine.

The Democratic National Convention started yesterday (U.S. time) at

See GOP on Page 4

House to address AG's gun law concerns

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) said yesterday that they would discuss all concerns pointed out by Attorney General Edward Manibusan regarding the Special

Act for Firearm Enforcement, which became Public Law 19-42 after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed it last April.

PL 19-42 or the SAFE Act aims to regulate the possession of firearms in the CNMI. Manibusan, however, wants the Legislature to expedite the passage of his office's initiative of updating all gun control laws in the Commonwealth.

Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that they met with Manibusan and other members of the Attorney General's Office to discuss the provisions that the AG wanted to update under the SAFE II bill. He said that they had already received Manibusan's recommendation.

Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) has introduced House Bill 19-181 or

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Demapan

INSIDE



NATION

The Democratic National Convention gets underway in Philadelphia on Monday with much bigger demonstrations than the Republican convention and much higher temperatures.

PAGE 15



FOCUS

A growing number of parents want to get outside those parameters when it comes to dressing their kids.

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OVERDRIVE

When Honda pulled the Ridge line midsize pickup from the market in 2014, it appeared the segment would go with it.

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Local

Habitual offender looks for \$10M, allegedly threatens to kill storeowner

Just released from prison last March after serving a six-month prison term for breaking several appliances at their house in Dandan, career criminal Nestor Camacho Taitano was arrested again over the weekend, this time for allegedly coming to a store in San Vicente with a machete and threatening to kill the storeowner if her

daughter would not return his \$10 million.

Taitano, 41, was arrested on Saturday afternoon at a residence in San Vicente for assault and disturbing the peace.

When Police Officer David Rabauliman responded to Nang Ocha Store in San Vicente, the victim was shaking from fear.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja imposed a \$5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Wednesday at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Taitano. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the gov-

ernment.

Police Detective Daniel T. Joab stated in his report that on Saturday at 4:15pm, the victim called the police that Taitano was inside Nang Ocha Store and was holding a machete.

Joab said investigation showed that earlier that morning on Saturday, Taitano called Nang Ocha Store on the phone and asked the victim about the whereabouts of her daughter.

Taitano asked the victim to tell her daughter to return his \$10 million.

At 4pm that day, Taitano, carrying a machete, came to the store and threatened to kill the victim.

When Taitano left, the victim locked the store's door. After a

few minutes, he came back and attempted to open the door.

The victim told police she knew Taitano for more than 10 years and that she is sure that her daughter does not hang around with him.

The victim said she is scared because her husband is in Hawaii for medical referral escorted by her daughter.

Taitano's mother had told police that his son turns violent whenever he's under the influence of illegal drugs.

Taitano would scream at night or come home early morning and talk to himself. The mother said she is scared to stay at her house believing that he might hurt her or even kill her. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



GOLD SPONSOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island Training Solutions has become a Gold sponsor of the 10th Annual Hell of The Marianas Century Cycling race set to take place this Dec. 3, 2016. Photo shows Maureen Sebangiol, Island Training Solutions administrator; NMI Cycling Federation board members Esther Ada and Vincent Seman; and owner of Island Training Solutions, James Arenovski. For more information, please visit HOM Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HOMRace/>.

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Judge finds 10-year jail term too lenient for repeat child molester

Finding a 10-year imprisonment too lenient to impose on a repeat child molester, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has rejected a proposed plea agreement with the defendant.

At a change of plea hearing on Friday, Camacho noted that defendant Nathan I. Narcis, 31, has two prior convictions in which another judge slapped him with barely 18 months prison term.

In this pending case, Camacho said, there is a third victim.

The government charged Narcis, also known as Nate Dawg, with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and disturbing the peace for sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl on Rota last May 21.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub told the court that the government is aware of the prior convictions, but decided to offer a plea bargain anyway.

Weintraub stated that Narcis will be a registered sex offender if the court accepted the government's proposed plea agreement.

Weintraub agreed with

Camacho that Narcis was already a registered sex offender.

Camacho further inquired if Narcis being a registered sex offender prevented him from his third victim, to which Weintraub replied "no."

The proposed plea bargain recommended a 15-year imprisonment all suspended except 10 years, with credit of time served, plus other conditions.

With the rejection of the proposed plea bargain, Narcis then chose to do an open guilty plea.

It means that the defendant pleaded guilty to the sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree but not by a plea agreement.

Sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree refers to sexual contact but no penetration.

By entering an open guilty plea it means that Narcis throws himself at the mercy of Camacho, who set the sentencing for Dec. 14, 2016 at 9am.

Camacho ordered the Office of Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

Assistant public defender

Tillman Clark is counsel for Narcis.

After the hearing, Narcis was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Rota Police Detective Tito S. Hocog II stated in his report that police arrested Narcis last May 21 after the girl's mother contacted Rota Department of Public Safety to file a complaint of child molestation against Narcis.

Hocog said the mother learned about the incident that night after her daughter went to her, looking scared and with a shivering voice.

The girl told her mother that Lizama touched her private part.

Hocog said Narcis is a registered sex offender after he was convicted with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree in 2008.

Hocog said as a registered sex offender, Narcis is prohibited to be anywhere with minors.

At the time he was arrested, Narcis was employed as a community worker at the Rota Municipal Council. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

2 of 3 claims by Chinese teacher who sued for police brutality at airport dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday dismissed two of the three claims against the U.S. government filed by Yu Min Zhao, a Chinese teacher who alleged that eight U.S. Customs and Bor-

der Protection officers denied her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant and that she was handcuffed, her face slammed against the wall, and placed in isolation for 22 hours.

In granting the U.S. government's motion to dismiss, Manglona ruled that because as a matter of law Zhao cannot

plead facts that would show CBP officers lacked authority to detain her for inspection, the dismissal as to the first cause of action for false imprisonment/arrest is with prejudice.

Dismissal with prejudice means Zhao cannot re-open her claim for false imprison-

See **TEACHER** on Page 4

Macabalo gets 21-month prison term for perjury

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Alexandra Castro Macabalo, a 30-year-old woman accused of enticing a 15-year-old girl to engage in sex for cash with a then-CNMI government official in 2013, but pleaded guilty to perjury in federal court, was slapped with a 21-month prison term.

At a sentencing on Friday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said after completing the prison term, Macabalo will be placed on supervised release for three years.

Macabalo was given credit for time served. As of last Friday, she has been in custody for 220 days. She was ordered to immediately pay \$100 in special assessment fee.

During the probationary period, Macabalo will be required to perform 50 hours of community work service and participate in a substance abuse treatment program, among other conditions.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, recommended a sentence of 21 months imprisonment, which is the high end of the sentencing guideline range.

Defense counsel Benjamin Petersburg recommended a sentence of 10 months imprisonment, which is below the

sentencing guideline range.

Attorney Bruce Berline, Petersburg's co-counsel, stated in defendant's sentencing memorandum that given Macabalo's personal history, her acceptance of responsibility, her lack of criminal history, and other factors, a 10-month imprisonment and supervised release with appropriate terms and conditions would be sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to effectuate the purposes of sentencing.

Macabalo has two young children. She has had some difficulties with the father of her children.

Berline said methamphetamine or "ice" changed Macabalo's behavior and brought her into contact with users, dealers, and other bad influences.

Berline said Macabalo admitted to making a false statement while testifying during a grand jury proceeding involving her uncle, Raymond Roberto.

"Ms. Macabalo has admitted to using methamphetamine and that this played a role in the commission of the offense," the defense lawyer said.

Manglona also granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss with prejudice the indictment filed against the defendant.

Dismissal with prejudice means the prosecution can no longer re-open the case.

After the hearing, Macabalo

was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Last March, Macabalo pleaded guilty to perjury.

Perjury carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, a three-year supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment fee.

Under the plea deal, the sentencing guideline range is 15 to 21 months imprisonment.

An information charged Macabalo with one count of perjury for allegedly lying before a grand jury.

The defendant then signed a plea agreement with the U.S.

government and entered a guilty plea.

Under the plea agreement, the U.S. government agrees to move to dismiss the pending indictment (enticement) upon sentencing.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Macabalo intentionally made false testimony before a grand jury on May 20, 2014.

Macabalo was asked during the grand jury if Raymond B. Roberto asked her to contact a minor girl and see if the girl was willing to have sex with that person for money.

Macabalo answered it's not for money and that Roberto mentioned to "hook up with him."

Macabalo also answered she does not recall the question whether Roberto wanted her to convince the girl to have sex with him.

The defendant agreed that she did contact the girl and that she did that because it was a setup.

Asked what she meant by "setup," Macabalo replied it's not really a set up, but "it was a prank."

According to the plea agree-

ment, Macabalo's testimony had a "natural tendency to influence, or was capable of influencing, the grand jury's investigation."

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Macabalo in April 2015 after a complaint was filed in court, charging her with enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution and other sexual activity. The indictment was later subsequently filed.

Last December, Manglona granted the U.S. Probation's request to revoke the pre-trial release of Macabalo for smoking methamphetamine or "ice" and violating other pre-trial conditions.

USDOL approves CNMI Senior Community Service Employment

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration recently approved the CNMI Senior Community Service Employment Program Grant Application for Program Year 2016, covering July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

The total amount awarded is \$324,965. At the same time, the four-year State Plan for the Senior Community Service Employment Program was also approved. Additional information requested by DOL will be submitted before Sept. 1, 2016. Both Grant Application and State Plan were au-

thored by Office on Aging director Walter Manglona.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a community service and work-based job-training program for older adults. Authorized by the Older Americans Act, the program provides training for low-income, unemployed seniors ages 55 years and older, to assist them in finding permanent jobs. The number of positions is dependent on the availability of funding. The current number of slots is 34—24 on Saipan, five on Rota, and five on Tinian. (PR)

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MURPHY

From Page 1

and continues to violate his Second and 14th Amendment rights.

Guerrero and Larson, through the Office of the Attorney General, then filed a motion for summary judgment. OAG asserted that ban on assault rifles and the \$1,000

tax on handguns in the CNMI as well as other SAFE provisions are constitutional.

Assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington asserted that the ban on assault rifles in the Commonwealth survives intermediate scrutiny because the CNMI has a significant, substantial, and important interest in public safety, and there is a reasonable fit between the ban on assault rifles

and protecting public safety.

Brasington argued that the \$1,000 tax on pistols is constitutional because it is a legitimate use of the Commonwealth's unique ability under the Covenant to control its own customs territory.

In Murphy's memorandum in support of response to Guerrero and Larson's motion, Murphy said the purpose of the \$1,000 tax to fund a

study on the increased cost of handguns does not exist.

Murphy cited that the CNMI has had firearms since it became a Commonwealth in 1978 and that no known CNMI firearms-related study has ever been conducted.

He said the study would begin with a subjective presumption that handguns will increase costs again singling out the Second Amendment for especially unfavorable treatment.

Murphy also argued that the storage provisions of the SAFE Act, the ban on "assault weapons," and the criminalization of and ban on ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds do not survive strict scrutiny and therefore, unconstitutional.

In his pro se lawsuit or without a lawyer, Murphy asked the court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunctions enjoining DPS Commissioner Guerrero from enforcing against

him the firearms and ammunition storage restrictions and the prohibition on obtaining, owning, and possessing ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds.

Murphy alleged that DPS withheld all his firearms and ammunition until the issuance

of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to the Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is being held by the CNMI DPS Firearms Section.



PROBATION AND PAROLE WEEK

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Chief Justice Alexander C. Castro jointly signed a proclamation recently for Probation and Parole Supervision Week in the CNMI Supreme Court. The proclamation is intended to encourage all citizens to honor these community corrections professionals and to recognize their achievements.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

HOUSE

From Page 1

SAFE II that would provide possession and management of firearms in the Commonwealth. He is the House Judiciary & Governmental Operations Committee chair.

Demapan said Maratita's bill is now at the committee level where they are discussing the provisions on the AG's proposal. "We discussed the issues on those provisions that would be included on the proposed initiative. We also had meetings with the [committee] members."

The House speaker added that the committee is working double time to pass the measure that would include the recommendations made by Manibusan but is making

sure it would not be in conflict within the existing laws in the CNMI.

"The committee is doing its due diligence, making sure it is conformed with whatever laws that we have in the Commonwealth. Also, we're trying to put things in legal format. The committee will again meet soon to discuss the proposed measure and other provisions on the bill," he said.

The Department of Public Safety would be the implementing agency of the SAFE II bill once passed and signed into law by Torres. The DPS would accept and approve all applications, and issue the gun licenses.

"Of course the DPS will be the main authority in making sure that anyone who wishes to have handguns or any type of weapons that they would

have to go through the entire process," said Demapan.

Demapan added that DPS would also make sure that all applications they received or submitted to their office would follow in whatever gun control laws that the CNMI has here.

AG Office's proposals

Manibusan, in a press release published yesterday, said with SAFE II the DPS "can process firearm applications consistent with the Second Amendment requirements." He has urged the Legislature to expedite in passing the SAFE II initiative that his office is proposing to update CNMI gun control laws.

"We also discussed changing the scope of the Second Amendment and the litigation that is occurring across the country," said Manibusan in

the release after their meeting with House members.

DPS, under the OAG's SAFE II draft proposal, will have the power to conduct federal background checks on individuals once they applied for gun licenses or register their firearms. SAFE II also has a provision that would govern the commercial sale of firearms in the CNMI.

Background checks by DPS would ensure criminals would not acquire guns and other firearms.

Also included in SAFE II is a 10-day waiting period for an individual in the CNMI who wanted to buy firearms.

Deputy AG Lillian Tenorio, OAG chief solicitor James Zarones, and assistant AG Charles Brasington joined Manibusan in the meeting with House members.

ment/arrest.

Manglona also dismissed without prejudice Zhao's second cause of action for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Dismissal without prejudice means the plaintiff can re-file her claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

In an eight-page order, Manglona said while Zhao says the rough treatment was painful, she does not allege she was physically injured.

Manglona said Zhao does not allege that any additional physical force was applied against her once she had been cuffed and searched.

"The police conduct she describes does not exceed the bounds tolerable to a civilized society," the judge pointed out.

The U.S. government only moved to dismiss the two claims. The third claim is assault and battery.

Zhao, through counsel Samuel Mok, alleged that her husband, Li, was questioned first on that same day by a CBP officer and was admitted under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program without incident.

Mok stated in the complaint that Zhao, a school teacher in China, wanted to visit Saipan with her husband, Li, as a tourist for a weeklong vacation.

Mok said the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2013, at

3:10am, soon after the couple arrived at the Saipan International Airport from Beijing via a China Eastern Airlines charter flight.

In the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the two claims, its primary argument for dismissal of false arrest and imprisonment, is that the officers had authority to arrest and detain Zhao.

The U.S. government asserted that Zhao fails to state a claim for false arrest because she has not plausibly pled that the CBP officers lacked lawful authority to detain her.

Mok argued that Zhao has pled that her detention was unlawful because the U.S. government had "no articulable facts connecting her to criminal activity or providing probable cause."

In her order, Manglona said unlike in a Fourth Amendment claim against law enforcement officers based on an unreasonable search or seizure, CBP officers do not need to be investigating a crime or have probable cause to detain an alien at the border while determining whether she should be permitted to enter the country.

On Zhao's allegations she was handcuffed and held incommunicado, Manglona said these allegations may go to the conditions of her confinement, but not whether immigration officers lawfully arrested her.

"Conditions of confinement are not an element of a false imprisonment claim," the judge pointed out.

GOP

From Page 1

the Wells Fargo Center and Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In a document provided by press secretary and CNMI Republican Party spokesperson Ivan Blanco, the advisory committee will join the transition team if the GOP's Trump-Pence ticket wins in this year's hotly contested presidential elections on Nov. 8.

"We call for the appointment of a commonwealth and territories advisory committee consisting of representatives from all five U.S. territories—American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands," according to the adopted resolution by the national GOP.

"The committee will be integrated into the president's

transition team and be tasked with performing a holistic review of all federal regulations affecting the territories and commonwealths."

The advisory committee is separate from the planned appointment of the Special Assistant to the President, who would be the direct representative of the territories to the White House.

"We further call for the appointment of a Special Assistant to the President responsible for day-to-day interaction with the territories and commonwealths. This position will be the direct connection for the Office of Insular Affairs, the citizens of the territories and commonwealths, and the White House."

Territories' concerns

The Republican Party has also recognized the challenges faced by all U.S. territories as they need to catch up with the

ever changing economic landscape to move forward and earn gains. The GOP suggests that territories need to strengthen their existing industries and develop new ones.

"[GOP] recognizes the challenges facing all U.S. territories in an era of dramatic global economic change. They [Territories] need venture capital to retain existing industries and develop new ones."

Dependence on public employment would be reduced on a stronger private sector that could also lead to self-sufficiency, the resolution added. "[The territories'] development and local energy options will be crucial to reduce dependence on costly imported fuel."

Territories' economic stability

The Republican resolution also wanted all territories to have stable economies that would benefit all of its citi-

zens. "The territories' economic stability and potential for growth must be considered in any trade agreements between the U.S. and other Pacific nations."

The GOP would like all territories to be exempted from laws that would increase costs for its citizens like the minimum wage and the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 or the Jones Act, which regulates maritime commerce in U.S. waters and U.S. ports.

The Republican Party said they wanted all unreasonable obstacles and U.S. customs practices to be removed that would be beneficial to the five U.S. territories.

"Territories such as American Samoa should be able to properly develop their resources, including fishing, when jobs and the economy depend on it."

NMI participation

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led the CNMI delegation to the RNC where all nine delegates of the Commonwealth were secured by Trump, who unanimously won the caucus held on Saipan last March.

CNMI Republican Party president and Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Budget Office director and GOP committee-woman Virginia Villagomez joined Torres and Blanco in the convention.

Committeeman Bo Palacios, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), John "Liling" Reyes, and alternate delegates Diego C. Blanco, Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Robert J. O'Connor, and Anthony A. Camacho were the other members of the CNMI delegation, which is among the smallest.

Blanco said Torres was

pleased that the CNMI had the chance to participate in the important event. "In fact, he was [even] invited by Trump to sit in his VIP box. Not all governors were invited so it goes to show how Trump recognizes even the smallest delegates."

Blanco added the RNC ended on a positive note after the GOP included the territories in the party platform. "The CNMI Republican Party is pleased that our language, favorable to the CNMI, was included and adopted unanimously by the national party."

Torres, in a statement, said though he continues to address local issues, he also makes sure the CNMI's concerns are heard at the national level. "Many of our issues are unique to our islands and often, decisions on the national level inadvertently affect our environment, our economy, and our rights under our Covenant."

JON PEREZ
Members of the In Memoriam committee pose for a group photo after one of their meetings held at the American Memorial Park conference room.

In Memoriam to have essay-writing and logo-making contests

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council will be holding an essay-writing and logo-making contest to usher in its In Memoriam event that pays tribute to all the men, women, and children of the Northern Marianas who died during World War II.

The two competitions will be open to all middle and high school students and the proposed criteria for the essay-writing contest are as follows:

- Must be 500-650 words;
- Must be typewritten and double spaced using Times New Roman, size 12 font or Arial size 10;
- Name, school, and grade level must be on cover page;
- Has answered the essay question;

■ Subject is relevant, accurate, and provided examples or references;

■ Writer has organized sequence of thought, point/argument, is clear;

■ Writing is original, uses appropriate word choice, and active voice;

■ Writing is effective in purpose, persuasive, and demonstrates impact; and

■ Uses proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

The rules for the logo-making contest are still up for discussion and will be announced as soon as it's available.

The municipal council has planned a series of events for the In Memoriam commemoration, kicking off with a blessing of the Marianas Memorial Monument on Oct. 28 at 4pm.

The annual blessing of the Marianas Memorial Monument will be held at the American Memorial Park. The Marianas Memorial Monument is dedicated to Chamorros and Carolinians of the Northern Marianas who perished during the Pacific War.

The In Memoriam organizing committee is planning to invite guest speakers from the Office on Aging who will talk about their involvement before, during, and after the Battle of Saipan.

The organizing committee will invite historians and scholars to give a talk about the battle. It will also be asking the offices of the Carolinian and Indigenous Affairs if they know someone who could talk about a relative that took part in the war. The plan to guest in the radio show will most likely be in mid-July, August, or September. Official dates will be announced afterwards.

This will be the third straight year that the municipal council is organizing the event, which honors all the civilians who fell during the Battle of Saipan. *(Mackenzie Perez)*



Ex-contract worker Balabagan to hold concert on Saipan

Church 360 will be holding a free concert by Sara Balabagan this coming Saturday, July 30, 2016 at Marianas Business Plaza starting 6pm. Balabagan will be performing her songs and will be talking about her life story.



Balabagan

Balabagan was an overseas contact worker, or OCW, that worked in the United Arab Emirates. She grew up in Maguindanao, Philippines. On July 1994, she killed her employer by stabbing him 34 times. Balabagan said it was an act of self-defense because her employer attempted to rape her. She was found guilty of manslaughter and a rape victim on June 1995. She was sentenced to seven years of imprisonment and was asked to pay the employers family.

In September 1995, an Islamic court found no evidence of her being raped and

was sentenced with premeditated murder and was sentenced to death by firing squad. This resulted in an international outcry as her trial was seen as an emblem of inadequate treatment of domestic helpers.

After her third trial the employer's family chose to drop the lawsuit presented to her and her punishment was lessened to a year and 100 blows of a cane along with payment of blood money. She later returned to the Philippines and her life story was made into a movie. Balabagan is now a singer and entertainer in the Philippines.

Balabagan will also perform for Core Tech employees in Guam on July 29 and at Calvary Baptist Church in Tamuning, Guam on July 31. The Saipan concert will be free to the public at the Naruru Loop in Susupe. *(Mackenzie Perez)*

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Babauta: SHEFA to fast track NMTI request



JON PEREZ

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance vice chair Juan Tenorio, left, discusses his concerns while board members, from left, Frank Cabrea and Ray Muna, administrator Melissa Rasa, and chair Oscar M. Babauta listen in their last week's meeting at the conference room of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance would fast track the request made by the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to provide financial aid to their students. SHEFA provides supplementary financial assistance to qualified students who want to seek college degrees here or overseas.

SHEFA chair Oscar M. Babauta, in last week's board

meeting, said they wanted to help NMTI and they are looking at covering all of the programs they offer to eligible students.

NMTI officials, led by chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, met with SHEFA also last week.

"The committee would be fast-tracking the request made by NMTI of granting awards to its respective students other than those in the construction trades. We want to have a permanent solution on this matter," said Babauta.

Babauta added that SHEFA supports NMTI's programs by providing funds to its students in the construction trades. "But we want to adopt policies that would apply to other vocational institutions aside from NMTI."

NMTI wanted to include its other programs particularly in the hotel and restaurant operations—which also follows the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute's curriculum—and culinary arts that have become popular among

CNMI residents.

NMTI aims to train and prepare students to enter the CNMI workforce especially now that there's a lot of economic activity happening on Saipan. Several restaurants and Kensington Hotel Saipan had already opened while a few more will start its operations in the coming months.

SHEFA administrator Melissa Rasa also reported that they had already received a total of 807 applicants as of Thursday, July 21. Not yet included are those applications sent by snail mail on or before the July 1, 2016 deadline.

Out of the 807 applicants, 398 are new, while 376 are ongoing recipients. Another 33

are returning or did not apply for one year.

SHEFA has already approved 154 applications or a total of \$286,000 and the requests are awaiting Babauta's signature before they could forward it to the Department of Finance for processing.

Rasa added that they also denied 43 due to having already met the award duration for associate degrees, repeating courses that have already been paid for by SHEFA, and not meeting the required 2.5 GPA.

Babauta said that he is concerned in the next three years as the casino opening would gravely affect the poker gaming industry. "Providing ser-

vice to the students requires a certain amount of money. We are liable to that contractual obligation between students and the agency."

He added that they are hopeful the CNMI Legislature and other concerned government agencies would help them in looking for other source of funds once the revenue from the poker license fees decrease.

Recipients of SHEFA's assistance are expected to return to Saipan after they successfully complete their collegiate degrees to share what they have learned by working either in the private or public sector and in non-profit organizations.

Supreme Court upholds Ogumoro's denial of release

The Supreme Court upheld a trial court order last July 22 denying defendant Ambrosio T. Ogumoro's motion for release pending the outcome of his appeal.

Ogumoro was convicted of theft of services, conspiracy to commit theft of services, obstructing justice, criminal coercion, and five counts of misconduct in public office. He was sentenced to serve one year in prison.

Ogumoro argued he is entitled to release because there was insufficient evidence supporting his convictions for theft of services and conspiracy to commit theft of services and that several hearsay statements were not admissible as coconspirator statements.

Furthermore, he asserted the Commonwealth failed to establish that an investigator for the Office of the Public Auditor was a law enforcement officer and his failure to assist OPA in serving penal summons did not constitute misconduct in public office.

In his motion for review, Ogumoro asserted the trial court incorrectly denied his motion for release because he raised substantial questions that would result in reversal or a new trial.

Additionally, he claimed the trial court should have considered the potential that he may serve his short unsuspended sentence before the appeal is decided, effectively rendering his appeal moot.

The Supreme Court concluded that Ogumoro failed to raise substantial questions likely to result in reversal regarding his sufficiency of the evidence and hearsay arguments. As to the sufficiency of the evidence supporting his convictions for theft of services and conspiracy to commit theft of services, Ogumoro claimed that the testifying OPA investigator failed to adequately support her conclusion that the value of the armed escort Ogumoro allegedly appropriated exceeded \$250.

The court disagreed, not-

ing that the investigator clearly articulated the values, the defense did not challenge the bases of the estimated value on cross-examination, and the jury's ultimate conclusion would be due deference on appeal.

Next, the court concluded Ogumoro's hearsay argument failed to identify how the alleged hearsay statements related to any of his convictions. Thus, he did not establish he would be entitled to reversal of any of his convictions as a result of the error. The court determined the potential for mootness would not tip the balance in favor of granting release. The court noted that Ogumoro must demonstrate reversal would be likely for each of his nine convictions, but he failed to demonstrate substantial questions likely to result in reversal as to at least six.

Consequently, the court concluded Ogumoro did not meet his burden to establish he was entitled to release. The court's full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme16.html>. (PR)



Ogumoro

Intoxicated lifeguard allegedly punches sleeping wife

An intoxicated lifeguard allegedly punched the face of his sleeping wife, who moved to a couch to avoid having sex with him at their apartment in San Roque on early morning Thursday.

Youme Kumuch Sharry, 27, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim was transported by medics to the Commonwealth Healthcare Center, where she received four stitches on a laceration to the right side of her bottom lip.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted a third party custodian and allowed Sharry to post a \$500 cash and \$4,500 in unsecured bond.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 27 at 9am.

Police Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the couple was drinking with some friends at a bar in Gara-

pan and left the establishment on Thursday at 12:30am.

As the wife lay down on the bed at their apartment unit, Sharry took their baby back from the bedroom of his mother-in-law. Sharry then placed the baby next to his wife.

Sharry told the wife that he would be in the living room to finish drinking beer and play a game on their Xbox.

Aldan said that at 3am, the wife was awakened when Sharry was trying to take off her underwear.

The wife yelled at Sharry to stop as she was sleeping. She then pushed him away. He apologized then lay down on the bed.

The wife moved to the living room, where she slept on the couch because she didn't want him to wake her up again and try to take off her underwear.

The wife was later awakened when she felt pain on her lower lip and jaw. When

she opened her eyes, she saw Sharry standing over her with both clenched fists.

As she noticed blood on her face and felt dizzy, she got up from the couch and ran to her mother's room, woke her up, and asked her to call 911.

Sharry walked into their bedroom. The mother-in-law told Sharry that he needs to get out because she already called the police.

The mother-in-law said she was awakened by her daughter, who was crying, at 3am and saw she had blood all over her face and shirt.

The mother-in-law said Sharry came into her room and stated he would not leave until he gets back his bank card.

The mother-in-law said since she could not find the bank card from her daughter's purse, she gave him \$30 and asked him to just go away.

Responding police officers arrested Sharry at 4:32am that same day. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Whispering Palms School welcomes new K4-K5 teacher

At Whispering Palms School, we are pleased to offer a new program for K4 and K5 students, led by our new teacher, Christie Boll. If you have young children, you may recognize her name, or least her face. She has been working

as a Clubmate and in the Kids Club program at Pacific Islands Club.

If you have met Boll, you know that she is always smiling, energetic and full of life. In effective schools and in poor schools, the quality of the

teacher makes all the difference. Boll is a teacher that will create positive memories with our students.

She has a strong background working with international students, and has worked in education in the United States, France, and South Korea. She is fluent in French and will be a support for Korean parents and for all students.

Boll also has a background in working with students who have limited English skills. She has worked on reading, writing, and speaking to help students improve their English communication skills. She implemented hands-on activities to encourage students' participation and allow them to take control of their learning. Boll has been trained in differentiation in the classroom, which means that she teaches to students' individual strengths.

She has included technology in her teaching and adapted materials to fit the types of learners that are in the class. She has demonstrated daily contact with parents, and as K4/K5 teacher, would easily continue that practice when parents drop off or pick up their children.

Boll is passionate about running. She commented, "When I'm not working you can usually find me running down Beach Road. I absolutely love



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Whispering Palms School's new K4 and K5 Christie Boll bonds with young children. The Navy Hill school welcomes the former Pacific Islands Club Clubmate to its ranks.

running." She also enjoys hanging out by the beach with friends.

Working with young children, Boll will be running at

school and out of school. We welcome her exciting K4-K5 addition to our school. School begins for all Whispering Palms students on Wednesday,

Aug. 10. Parents interested in enrolling their children can review information on the school website at <http://www.saipan-privateschool.com>. (PR)

Call for nominations 2016 Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is soliciting nominations for the 2016 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities;
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;
- Preservation of CNMI History;
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).
- A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recog-

nizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Download the nomination form and instructions at the council's website (<http://northernmarianashumanities.org/sec.asp?secID=46>). They may also be picked up at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai.

Nominations are due no later than 4:30pm on Friday, Oct. 14, 2016.

Awards will be presented during the Governor's Humanities Awards which will be held in conjunction with the Council's 25th Anniversary Dinner/Fundraiser on the evening of Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 at the Pacific Islands Club.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

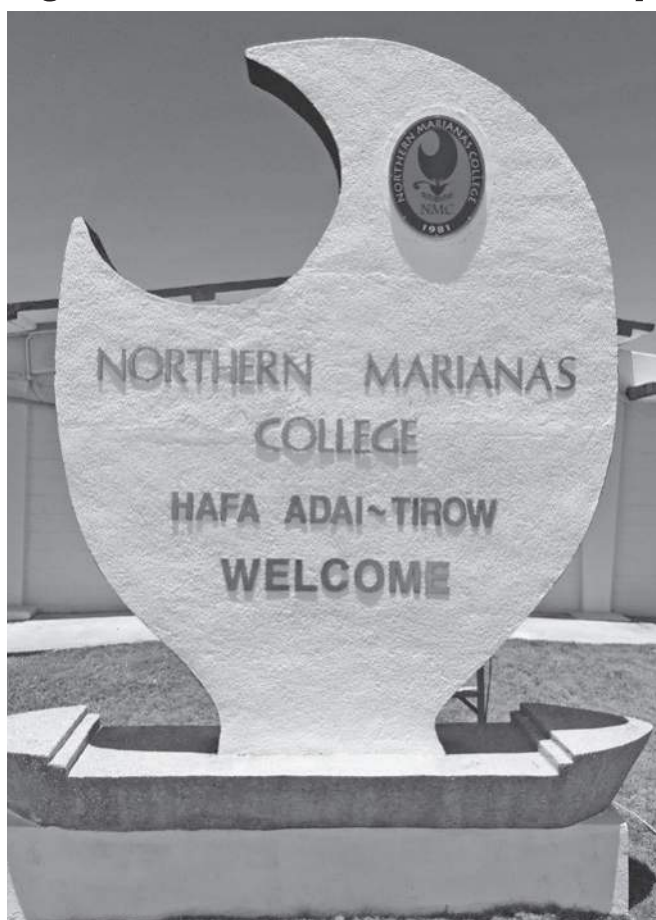
NMC to host college info session this Thursday

Northern Marianas College will be hosting an info session for the upcoming Fall 2016 semester this Thursday, July 28, 2016 at the NMC As Terlaje Campus, Building D1 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm for community members who are interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will provide information about NMC's admissions process, finding money for college, and NMC's degree programs. There will also be a discussion about NMC's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, which awards college credit based on an evaluation of college-level knowledge and skill individuals have gained outside the classroom.

Those who attend will also qualify to receive a waiver of NMC's admission application fee and placement test fees. The waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College will be hosting an info session for the upcoming Fall 2016 semester at its As Terlaje Campus this Thursday.

admissions, will also be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

For more information about the information session and/

or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

KagES releases sked for SY'16-'17

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia T. Demapan is welcoming parents and guardians of the school's incoming students for school year 2016-2017. She said it's the school's pleasure to inform them of the following schedule:

Aug. 11: Parent/student orientation for grades K-2nd, 10am-11am, cafeteria

Aug. 12: Parent/student orientation for grades 3rd-5th,

10am-11am, cafeteria

Aug. 15: First day of instruction for all students (K-5th), 7:30am-2pm.

During the parent and student orientation day, the teachers will present to meet with parents and of share instructional goals and expectations for the school year.

"We hope that our great moms and dads will be able to attend the above sched-

uled event, so that, you will be knowledgeable of our school continuous improvement plans and to become our partners in your child(ren)'s education. If you have any questions please call us at 664-3911," said Demapan

"Thank you and I look forward to see you all at our August pre-opening school activities. Your participation is greatly appreciated," she added. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

One Guam Water Integration ribbon-cutting ceremony this Thursday

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas (JRM) and Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) will be hosting a One Guam Water Integration ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Tumon Maui Well in Upper Tumon, Thursday, July 28 from 10am to 11:30am.

The ceremony signifies the official reopening and leasing of the Navy's Tumon Maui Well to GWA and affirms the Navy's commitment to the One Guam pillar.

The well is a Maui-type water well that operates to skim underground fresh water from

the thin basal layer. The well was constructed in 1947 and it accounted for a large portion of the water supply until its initial closure in 1995. It was then placed back into service for a short time then closed again in 1999. (PR)

JKPL offering Chamorro language classes

Are you interested in learning the basics of Chamorro? Or do you speak Chamorro or understand Chamorro, and just want to practice your Chamorro language skills?

Well, CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread Family Literacy Program is pleased to offer a free Beginner's Chamorro Literacy Class held at your

friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this summer!

Read and borrow books translated into Chamorro from our award-winning Motherhead/Fatheread curriculum. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday for the month of July from 5pm to 6pm.

Please call 235-7319/783-7678/285-9666 or email us at cnmimotherhead@gmail.com and sign up today. (PR)

SSHS orientation on Aug. 9 and 10

Saipan Southern High School's orientation dates for new and returning students will be on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016, 1:30 pm or Wednesday, Aug. 10, 1:30pm. (PR)

Cruz to Adelup: Time to get real on revenues

HAGATÑA—Following the Bureau of Budget and Management Research's (BBMR) publication of yet another dismal monthly Consolidated Revenue Expenditure Report (CRER), Vice Speaker Benjamin J. F. Cruz is calling on the Calvo administration's fiscal team to explain how it will make up for a \$16.5 million collections shortfall. Without a satisfactory explanation, the appropriations chair warns that adjustments may need to be made to properly account for the shortfall when crafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 revenues, as reliance on Adelup's rose-colored glasses may prove to be a futile exercise.

Statutorily required to be submitted to the Legislature on a monthly basis, the CRER

serves as an update on the collection status of GovGuam's General Fund (GF) revenue projections and expenditures. According to the report's projections, \$626.3 million should have been collected during the first three quarters of FY 2016. However, the June 2016 CRER reveals that the government has actually only collected \$609.8 million—leaving a revenue shortfall of \$16.5 million.

Despite this clear shortfall, the administration maintains that the months of July through September—which Cruz notes are historically-low revenue collection months—will yield record revenue collec-

tions and meet the total \$825 million projected for the end of FY 2016.

"Every time our government adopts revenue projections we don't meet, we grow our deficit, strain our cash flow, and make another empty promise to the people of Guam. If we want this to stop, we need

to work together, we need to tell the truth, and we need to get real about the challenges we face," stated the appropriations chair, who called out the Department of Administration in early June for recording over \$10 million in GF revenue that had yet to be collected in April 2016, and artificially inflat-



Cruz

Blas calls on AG to assist with deportations

GUAM—Senator Frank Blas Jr. is calling on the Attorney General to assist with the Governor's efforts to deport eligible felons who are here on Guam under the Compacts of Free Association.

In a letter sent yesterday to Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, Blas writes, "While I wholeheartedly support the concept of deporting eligible convicted criminals, I do want to ensure that everything is done to guarantee that these individuals are never allowed to return to our island."

In recent news, Gov. Eddie

Calvo has announced that he has commuted prison sentences of convicted criminals who are here on our island because of the Compacts. Compact citizens are treated as non-resident aliens under the law, and can be deported if found guilty of certain crimes.

» **Wants to ensure felons do not return to Guam**



Blas

"While I applaud Governor Calvo for his swift actions, I am concerned that there may not be enough follow up on these cases to guarantee that these specific individuals do not return to Guam," Blas stated in his letter. "I turn to you as the Attorney General of

Guam to review this matter and provide guidance on what we, as a local government, can do to ensure the convicted felons do not reappear in our community. As such, I am willing to introduce legislation you believe may be required in order to fully support and strengthen this process."

The senator invited the Attorney General to meet with him to further discuss this matter "to ensure that all elements of this process are thorough and can withstand any legal challenge."

A copy of the letter is attached. For more information, please contact the Office of Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr., at 475-2527 or via email at frank.blasjr@gmail.com. (PR)

ing GF revenue tracking in the April CRER as a result. "Let me be clear, unless Section 30 saves us yet again, I don't see any real way we can climb out of a \$16 million hole in 3 months. If the Administration's revenue projections have a get-out-of-jail-free card, now is the time to tell us about it."

Of particular importance to Cruz is the revenue tracking of the Business Privilege Taxes (BPT), which, according to

the report, suffered a shortfall of \$10.9 million. With projections at \$185.4 million for the first three quarters of FY 2016, the report reveals that only \$174.5 million was actually collected. Cruz notes that, despite the glaring facts, the Administration continues to insist that the government will hit the total projection of \$247.7 million in total BPT revenues.

"If Adelup does not collect the \$247 million in BPT we projected this year, how can its revenue projections say we

will collect \$273 million—\$23 million more in FY17?" said Cruz. "This aggressive revenue tracking allows for pay-and-pray budgeting: promise to pay out more in government spending next year and pray we collect enough to cover it."

The Committee on Appropriations will glean a detailed explanation and justification of the Administration's revenue projections for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2017 at BBMR's budget hearing this Friday. (PR)

Coast Guard, state agencies respond to grounded vessel off Kailua-Kona

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The U.S. Coast Guard is responding to the grounding of the Spirit of Kona on the island of Hawai'i, Sunday.

Representatives from Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, Department of Natural Resources, Hawaii Division of Boating and Recreation, commercial salvors and the owner of the vessel are working to develop a salvage plan.

Coast Guard Sector Honolulu watchstanders received notification Sunday morning from a good Samaritan reporting the 65-foot Spirit of Kona, a commercial passenger vessel, aground on the rocks near the Kailua-Kona Lighthouse.

Representatives from Coast Guard Sector Honolulu at Marine Safety Detachment Hawaii, state agencies and commercial salvors have attended the scene to assess the vessel and reported a 120 yard by 53 yard non-recoverable rainbow sheen in the vicinity.

The vessel reportedly has a

maximum pollution potential of 600 gallons of diesel fuel aboard, commercial batteries and 19.5 gallons of hydraulic and lube oils. No wildlife was seen in the area or reportedly affected.

The vessel reportedly broke free of its mooring in Kailua Bay as Tropical Storm Darby passed over the region early Sunday. No one was aboard the vessel at the time of the incident. Sector Honolulu watchstanders have issued a broadcast notice to mariners reporting the vessel as a possible hazard to navigation.

As the Spirit of Kona is a commercial vessel, operated by Blue Sea Cruises, the Coast Guard will investigate the cause of the grounding and work with the owner to address repairs and operating requirements once salvaged. A notice of federal interest has been issued.

Tropical Storm Darby continues to impact the Main Hawaiian Islands Sunday.

Commercial ports on Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Oahu are closed. The Coast Guard encourages boat owners to take precautions with regards to their vessels by moving them to protected areas, doubling up lines and taking them out of the water as applicable.

Darby continues to move west northwest. Localized damaging winds of 30 to 40 mph can be expected, along with gusts of 50 to 60 mph or greater. Surf along east facing shores of Maui will be 8 to 12 feet. Surf along east facing shores of Kauai, Oahu, and Molokai will be 6 to 10 feet. Passing rainbands will bring periods of showers. There is a chance for intense downpours or thunderstorms to develop this morning near Maui county, then spreading to Oahu and Kauai later today. Additional rainfall totals of 5 to 10 inches with local amounts up to 15 inches are expected with tropical storm Darby. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 26, 2000

Bitter fight over fees strand tourists at Outer Cove

Bus loads of Japanese tourists scheduled to take a day trip to Managaha island were turned away yesterday morning from taking their boat ride at the Outer Cove Marina by the management of Marine Revitalization Corp. after Tasi Tours refused to pay higher passenger departure fee. The Japanese tourists who had to endure several hours of delay were finally able to leave for Managaha using the convenience dock. The National Parks Service allowed Tasi Tours only to use the convenience dock for a day. Rex Kosack, legal counsel for Tasi Tours, said the Japanese tour operator will file an injunction against MRC to allow the

tour operator to continue using the Outer Cove Marina. MRC has been having difficulty in meeting operation costs and long-term debt obligations primarily because boat owners have refused to move their vessels to the marina or to pay the \$4 departure fee as well as construction costs in excess of costs budgeted. About one-half of the 45 boat slips available are occupied by commercial vessels while three are for personal use.

DOF recommends spending within means

As economic forecasts remain bleak for the Northern Marianas, the Department of Finance is suggesting that the CNMI government continue to spend within the projected available resources in an apparent move to continue significant reduction in outstanding budget

deficit. Acting Revenue and Taxation Director Dora S. Taitingfong said this is the reason why the finance department is recommending a Fiscal Year 2001 budget ceiling that is only about \$5 million higher than the submitted proposal for this fiscal year. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said the government is anticipating to generate no more than \$216 million in total local revenues in the next fiscal year. DOF is proposing a ceiling of \$216 million for FY2001. The government is now operating at a budget much lower than the 1997 levels in the Teno-rio Administration's desire to cut the outstanding cumulative budget deficit and spend within the anticipated available revenues.

July 26, 2004

'Ban on tint to address rise in auto accidents'

With statistics indicating a steady increase in auto-related accidents, Department of Public Safety commissioner Edward C. Camacho reiter-

ated his push to ban tinting on vehicles in the CNMI. Camacho said the ban is one way to address the rise of auto crashes, citing that the ban would provide higher visibility for vehicle operators. Earlier, Camacho said fully tinted vehicles present operators with a difficulty "to see, even with the headlights on." Further, a total of 3,168 accidents complaints were reported last year, an increase of 723 to that of 2002, which had 2,445 traffic related crashes.

8 countries eligible for 90-day stay

The Attorney General's Office has named eight countries whose senior citizens may be allowed to stay on the islands for up to 90 consecutive days. Eligible for a comity entry permit are tourists at least 55 years old who hold a passport from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and United Kingdom. These countries provide a comparable permit to citizens of the Commonwealth. In an order

dated July 22, attorney general Pamela Brown noted that applicants for CEPs must have a passport valid for at least 60 days after the expected date of departure. The memorandum came pursuant to the adoption of emergency regulations implementing Public Law 14-6. Signed into effect on May 20, the law authorizes the extension of senior tourists' entry permits from a period of 30 days to 90 days.

July 26, 2005

DPH issues list of referral health care services

The Department of Public Health has released a list of all health care facilities, health care providers, and ancillary care providers for the Commonwealth's medical referral patients. Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider said the rules and regulations have been amended since last week to govern the administration of the medical referral program as originally published in the Common-

wealth Register Volume 27 in March. The following health care facilities and services are recognized to be "referral" In the Philippines, the DPH has approved the Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, and the Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

Three warships visit Saipan over the weekend

The CNMI played host to some 900 U.S. Navy personnel aboard three visiting warships during the past weekend, with some staying for a three-day rest and recreation and others staying for five days. The USS Vandergrift, USS Fitzgerald and USS Chancellorsville docked on Saipan beginning Friday. All three are based in Yokosuka, Japan. USS Vandergrift commanding officer David A. Chase said it was his first time to be on Saipan, similar to most of his 240 men. The ship docked on the island Friday and left Saipan yesterday morning.

In first of its kind, church reps undergo Male Advocacy training

SUVA, Fiji—In the first engagement of its kind, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) in partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) is conducting a male advocacy workshop for women's human rights with pastors, priests and church workers.

FWCC is facilitating the workshop organized by PCC to help men who are members of churches that belong to the Fiji Council of Churches understand gender, violence against women, human rights and how they can help eliminate gender-based violence.

"This is first time we have engaged directly with the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Fiji Council of Churches to raise awareness about violence against women and how pastors, priests and church workers can contribute to eliminating it," said FWCC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pastors, priests, and church workers take part in a male advocacy workshop for women's human rights conducted recently by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre in partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches.

SPC launches multi-media competition: Why reading matters

SUVA, Fiji—In the lead up to International Literacy Day on Sept. 8, the Pacific Community (SPC) is conducting a campaign with Pacific education ministries to raise awareness on the importance of reading.

The campaign includes the launch of a multi-media competition that is open to children up to 16 years old from SPC member countries.

Literacy and numeracy skills provide a foundation for future generations to succeed at school and in life. The campaign, led by SPC's Educational Quality and Assessment Programme aims to highlight how reading skills are of use in so many aspects of life beyond the classroom.

"Kids listen to other kids, so the idea behind this regional competition is exactly that, kids talking to other kids about reading. All they need to do is share a story, preferably their own experience, about how reading has helped them and their communities," Pacific

Community EQAP Director, Michelle Belisle said.

Bearing in mind the varied technological capabilities of Pacific Island countries and territories, entries can be submitted as a letter or email, a storybook with illustrations, a poster with illustrations or as a short video.

The best entries from each of these categories will feature on selected websites, media platforms and shared with schools in the build up to International Literacy Day and can also be used in future campaigns to promote the importance of reading.

The competition is open to entries from: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. (PR)

Coordinator Shamima Ali.

"Religious leaders play an important role in the lives of the majority of our country, so it is significant that through this workshop they are open to learning about the issues and coming to terms with the magnitude of the problem, including the fact that some priests and pastors are perpetrators of violence," says Ali.

Participating in the workshop are 29 men, including pastors and lay preachers.

A spokesperson for the Pacific Conference of Churches said: "There is a great need for more processes like this for our ordained and lay leaders within the churches in Fiji. This is only the beginning and we would like to see more of this, not only here in Suva as a follow up but also for our male church leaders all over Fiji."

The PCC says there is a greater need to include young men (youth under the age of 35) in such training work-

shops so they can take their learning out into their peer groups, while also benefitting them as they mature into leaders within their churches and communities.

The workshop is being held at the Methodist Church in Fiji's Epworth House hall in Suva. It was opened on Monday by church president Rev Dr. Tevita Nawadra Bainivanua.

In his opening message, Bainivanua said the Christian message of salvation for com-

munities must also mean safe communities.

He said violence against women and children was an "evil" that was one of the main causes of problems in communities.

Facilitated by the FWCC, the workshop is funded by Australia's Pacific Women Shaping Development Program in partnership with the Weaver's Program of the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools and the Pacific Theological College. (PR)

Baldwin opens Emerging Youth Leaders of Melanesia Programme

PORT VILA, Vanuatu—Twenty young people from Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have gathered in Port Vila to begin training under the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and Pacific Community (SPC) Emerging Youth Leaders of Melanesia Programme.

The comprehensive training initiative, designed to develop strong youth leaders and equip them to lead development efforts, was opened today by the President of Vanuatu, H.E. President Baldwin Lonsdale, at the MSG Headquarters.

Also in attendance to witness the occasion were Vanuatu Members of Parliament, church leaders as well as representatives from the MSG Secretariat and SPC.

"At this critical moment in time when the Pacific island countries and the world are going through many challenges of any magnitude, we need a new brand of leadership who are responsible, ethical and God fearing young leaders of

tomorrow to step in to lead their people free from the hardship," Baldwin said.

"It is my call to you young leaders to think seriously about the opportunities and be ready to rise up and to take up the

challenges to ensure that your people's desire and interest is addressed effectively and efficiently," Baldwin added.

Youth unemployment remains a critical issue for the region to address. Twenty percent of the Pacific's 11 million people are 15 to 24 years old, of which approximately half are currently unemployed.

The Emerging Youth Leaders of Melanesia Programme will be conducted over a span of two years during which the selected youth leaders will participate in six, week-long workshops which will include practical sessions and visits to workplaces and agencies.

"This unique training opportunity aims to nurture our young and emerging leaders who will form part of the

capacity building of future leadership within the MSG sub-region," Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat Director-General, Amena Yauvoli, said.

"Participants will develop their own career plans, learn from each other and mentor other young people. They will also be given the opportunity to practice skills that are vital to succeeding in the workforce such as decision-making, communication, time and work management, innovation, and resilience among others," Yauvoli added.

A significant component of the training is also dedicated to learning more about the successful Solomon Islands Youth@Work programme model.

A recent three-year independent tracer study on Youth@Work indicates that around 39 percent of Solomon Islands youth who have participated in the programme since 2012 have secured further employment..

Last year, the programme achieved another milestone by being awarded a GBP 1 million grant from The Queen's Young Leaders Programme.

"Investment in our youth is critical to the socio-economic development of all of our member states and territories and SPC is delighted to partner with the MSG Secretariat to produce a diverse and intensive training programme for the five large Melanesian countries," SPC Regional Director, Melanesia, Mia Rimon, said.

"Youth@Work is a programme for youth, run by youth and to date has placed over 3500 young people in formal job internships and assisted another 5,000 in entrepreneurship start-ups through the monthly Youth Markets and the Young Entrepreneurs Programme in Solomon Islands. We look forward to sharing our knowledge and experience with the selected participants so that this successful model can be adapted and implemented in other Pacific countries as well," Rimon added. (PR)

Military exercises at W-517 this Thursday

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. military unit will be conducting military exercises at W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon south of Guam this July 28 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, acting governor Victor B. Hocog is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots

and marine tour operators to stay away from these areas during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center-Dispatch Center at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Can Hillary Clinton build voters' trust at the Democratic convention?

The first time Democrats convened to nominate a Clinton for president was 1992, in New York, and it was an eventful affair. Jerry Brown refused to endorse his winning rival, Bill Clinton. Brown delegates put tape over their mouths to protest the feared silencing of their candidate, who eventually got to speak.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland touted the Democratic females running for the Senate in "the year of the woman." Gov. Robert Casey of Pennsylvania was denied a chance to speak against abortion rights. Elizabeth Glaser, who had AIDS and had lost a daughter to the disease, brought the audience to tears when she said, "I am here because my son and I may not survive another four years of leaders who say they care — but do nothing."

Keynote speaker Gov. Zell Miller of Georgia quipped, "Not all of us can be born rich, handsome and lucky, and that's why we have a Democratic Party." Former Rep. Barbara Jordan of Texas, however, soberly addressed the challenge facing the party after three consecutive presidential defeats: "The American electorate must be persuaded to trust us, the Democrats, to govern again."

Trust is something Democrats can't count on this year. A recent poll found that 69 percent of Americans are concerned about Hillary Clinton's "record of being dishonest." At the Republican convention in Cleveland, speakers charged her with lying about her emails, Benghazi and even being named after Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to reach the top of Mount Everest (six years after she was born). "Lock her up!" was the recurring chant.

In their effort to sway voters, the Democrats massing in Philadelphia will be part of a much more controlled and predictable convention than the 1992 version — to say nothing of that raucous GOP gathering in Cleveland.

A party that nominated Bill Clinton in 1992 and is nominating his wife this year may seem like one that refuses to change. But the party has moved leftward in the past two decades, as the 2016 platform makes plain. Hillary Clinton is a very different candidate than her husband.

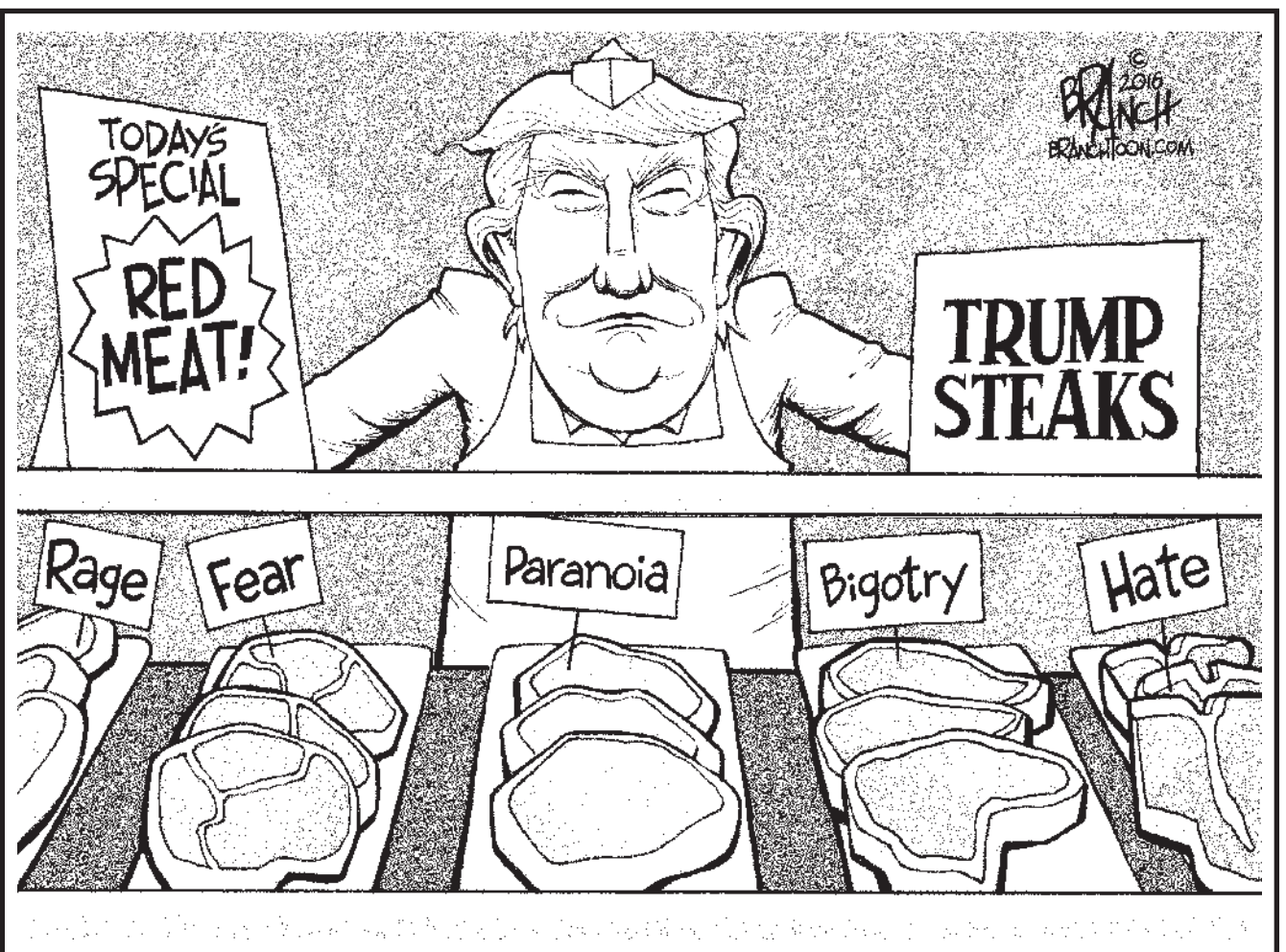
This convention is likely to fit her personality — deliberate and disciplined or, as critics would have it, calculating and uninspiring. Her rival, Bernie Sanders, has already endorsed her, though many of his followers have yet to fall in line. There will be speeches by President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Bill Clinton, Chelsea Clinton, an immigration activist and several mothers of African-Americans killed by police or criminals.

It's safe to assume that those watching will be told repeatedly that Hillary Clinton is an experienced, capable and empathetic leader — and that electing Donald Trump would be a catastrophic mistake. The challenge for those speaking is not finding things to criticize in him, but deciding which of his many rich shortcomings to highlight.

The New York tycoon has done so much to demonstrate his unfitness for the presidency that the Democrats should be coasting to an easy victory. But Clinton is a deeply flawed candidate whose self-control and lack of spontaneity have a way of casting a kind light on Trump's unpredictability. Most polls have her leading, but not by much.

Clinton also may suffer from a serious, and nationwide, enthusiasm gap. In the 2016 primaries and caucuses, voter turnout in the Republican contests was up by 8 million voters

See HILLARY on Page 11



Trump is no longer a joke; he's seriously scary

The first time I contemplated a Donald Trump presidency, after he won the first debate on browbeating tactics and crass antics, I joked: He could be our first Chusma-in-Chief!

A chusma is what we in Miami call a vulgar person with no manners, no filters, no self-control.

It's no longer a joke. The coronation of a gruff reality star whose demeanor fluctuates from clown to bully is now part of American history.

The brash New Yorker — who launched his candidacy with so much carelessness and offensive diatribe that pundits thought he was a Hillary Clinton plant — is, officially and irrevocably, the Republican nominee for president of the United States of America.

Just saying those words feels like an offense against a country that has been for more than a century a respected world leader.

Just contemplating the would-be president's claim to fame being the barking of "You're Fired!" on a television show feels like a farce is playing out. This is the nation people turn to for wisdom and refuge in times of trouble, isn't it? Hearing a triumphant Trump boast that he brings a one-man show of "law and order" to the model of due process, justice and freedom that has characterized the USA is frightening.

The tenor of his campaign served as warning that he was tapping into a sinister and powerful force. But how could one, in the age of information, anticipate that standards could fall low enough to render Trump electable by the party of Lincoln?

But this is not even Ronald Reagan's GOP. This party belongs to people like Sen. Ted Cruz, runner up in the Republican primary. Don't cry for Cruz, instigator of the extreme right-wing thought that brought us the Trump candidacy.

He may not endorse Trump, but Cruz and most of the GOP members of Congress laid the groundwork for this nomination and support its platform. They sowed the seeds of white supremacy and hatred of others that Trump harvested. They took their disrespect of a historic Democratic presidency way too far. And now, there's not only a Trump candidate, but a GOP that looks exactly him.

For anyone with doubts, the Republican National Convention offered a smorgasbord of opportunities.

Legendary Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz's racist rant portrayed immigrants as an "invasion." He repeated the fallacy that they don't want to speak English as he imitated them.

"I don't want to become you!" he railed at a Republican National Coalition for Life lunch. "I don't want to speak your lan-

By **FABIOLA SANTIAGO**

Miami Herald

Fabiola Santiago is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may email her at fsantiago@miamiherald.com



guage. I don't want to celebrate your holidays. I sure as hell don't want to cheer for your soccer team!"

That's how thick the hatred runs: A sports hero doesn't care how he smears his own legacy. His audience rewarded his bigotry with cheers and applause.

Congressman Steve King of Iowa reached deep into the well of ignorance for his contribution to the national display of prejudice.

Asked during an appearance on MSNBC if this might not be the last time whites control the platform and public face of the Republican Party, King used the moment to question the historical contributions of non-whites, which he dubbed a "subgroup."

"Go back through history and figure out where are these contributions that have been made by these other categories of people that you are talking about? Where did any other subgroup of people contribute more to civilization?"

Incredulous, host Chris Hayes asked, "than white people?" King dug himself deeper: "Than Western civilization itself that's rooted in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and the United States of America, and every place where the footprint of Christianity settled the world. That's all of Western civilization."

He obviously hasn't taken a world history class, read a book, or paid attention on the Spaceship Earth ride at Disney's Epcot. Or he'd have experienced at least a visual run through the history of humankind and learned, for starters, that the Egyptians invented papyrus and that Semitic peoples adapted Egyptian hieroglyphics to represent the sounds of their language.

A newly made-over Trump — cleaned up for general-audience consumption and cast this week as tough but understanding (he didn't fire the Melania speech plagiarist), collegial (he let Cruz speak even though mean Cruz didn't endorse him) — glowed a little less orange.

But I'm not laughing anymore.

After November, Miamians may have to bow our heads and whisper: Hail to the Chusma-in-Chief.

GOP shows it has no interest in appealing to African-Americans

Sixteen years ago I wrote a column headlined “Black voters warm to GOP,” which asked, “Could it be the Republicans have finally gotten it right?” I was referring to voter registration data that indicated the party of Lincoln was finally making notable progress in returning African-Americans to its fold. But as the saying goes, “That was then, this is now.”

Research by the Joint Center for Political Studies showed the percentage of African-Americans identifying themselves as Democrats dropped from 74 percent to 63 percent between the 2000 and 2004 elections, while those claiming to be Republicans rose from 4 percent to 10 percent. That shift was evident in George W. Bush’s corraling 11 percent of the black vote in his 2004 re-election bid. In Ohio, the black vote for Bush rose to 16 percent from 8 percent in 2000.

That wasn’t by accident. Bush made a concerted effort to reach out to African-Americans and evangelical Christians at the same time by appealing to black ministers across America. But Bush’s efforts didn’t repair the damage to the party caused by his poor response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, whose victims were overwhelmingly black.

Current Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is unlikely to get anywhere close to Bush’s numbers. A Quinnipiac poll shows Trump with only 1 percent black support nationally. He does better in an NBC/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll, with 6 percent of the black vote nationally, but zero black support in Ohio and Pennsylvania, two states crucial to any presidential nominee.

Apparently, those polls didn’t concern the Republican revel-

ers who crowned Trump at this week’s convention in Cleveland, where only an estimated 18 African-Americans were among the 2,472 delegates. By nominating Trump, who hemmed and hawed this year before finally disavowing the endorsement of former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke, the party signaled its belief that the race-baiting Southern strategy birthed by Richard Nixon can again carry it to victory.

There have been other signs that the GOP no longer feels it is important to be inclusive, including the departure this year of four African-American staffers at the Republican National Committee — Tara Wall, Orlando Watson, Raffi Williams, and Kristal Quarker Hartsfield — who were hired to reach out to black voters.

Two of the positions have been filled, by Lucas Boyce and Telly Lovelace, but some observers believe their jobs will only last as long as Reince Priebus remains RNC chairman, and he has said he won’t run for the post again next year. The herculean task before Boyce and Lovelace is too much for two people. To make a difference the party would need grassroots operatives in each state.

That was also the observation of the Growth Opportunity Project study, commissioned by the RNC after the 2012 election, which concluded that the party “must be committed to building a lasting relationship within the African-American community year-round, based on mutual respect with a spirit of caring.” The study dubbed the “autopsy” made 10 recommendations to build the GOP’s black base, including:

- Hire African American communications and political directors for key states and communities.

By **HAROLD JACKSON**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Harold Jackson is the editorial page editor for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may email him at hjackson@phillynews.com



- Establish a presence within black organizations such as the NAACP.

- Recruit and support African-American Republican candidates for office.

- Engage historically black colleges and universities to discuss Republican ideals and history.

Little if any of that actually happened, which led Sean Jackson, head of the Republican Black Caucus of Florida to tell Newsweek’s The Daily Beast website, “The RNC does not have a vested interest in black America. . . . It has been part of the norm — normal culture — for so many years, of not engaging the black community, that that engagement continues to be nonexistent.”

That appears unlikely to change with Trump, who with his antipathy toward worthwhile immigration reform has similarly shown little regard for past Republican efforts to cultivate more support among Latino Americans. It’s doubtful, too, that many Muslim voters will feel warm and fuzzy about Trump, who has made disparaging remarks about their holy book, the Quran.

I get tired of hearing Republicans accuse African-Americans of blindly clinging to the Democratic Party without considering why that might seem to be the case. It’s not just that their party only pays lip service to adding more African-Americans to its ranks. On the issues most important to black voters — income disparity, public education, fair justice, access to health care — the GOP is out of step.

And Trump seems uninterested in doing better.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We can’t escape racism

Racism is like a viral disease. It can spread so fast and affect the many lives of people. Racism to me is about people judging others on how they look and talk. Racism is passed down to younger generations all of the time. We can’t escape racism. It will always be there. Each race will always have hatred toward another, which is why there is so much discrimination in the world nowadays. People cannot accept others for who they are. The world is cruel and racism will live on Earth no matter what generation it is.

Gios Gozon

Chinatown

Appalled

After I read an article on a Chinese woman suing her company Louis Vuitton for discrimination, I was appalled. She was treated very different from other workers. She and her Chinese colleagues were also paid less than an incoming employee who was Japanese. This indicates that her bosses preferred other nationalities. She was also required to do more and according to the article, the store manager even called her derogatory names. Her complaints were apparently ignored too. I think she was right to sue them. No one has the right to do any of this to you. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in equality for all black and white people. He went through many struggles to defend his belief and it has paid off. It does not have to be black and white people, however, as this can count for anyone. Although racism may never be abolished we as people should try and change our ways. Laws can be set to protect us but it will not solve the problem. We can all make a big change.

Sean Apasan

Via email

Coup-proofing Turkey

The recent coup attempt in Turkey came as a complete surprise to most observers. But a decade ago, the only surprise would have been the fact that it didn’t succeed. After all, in the last 60 years Turkey has had four coups led by a military famously committed to secularism. When the Islamist Justice and Development Party, or AKP, was elected in 2002, another coup seemed all too likely.

Having survived, the AKP’s authority now appears unchallenged; President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is taking no risks as he purges the military of any potentially disloyal officers who remain. How did Erdogan and his party escape the fate of their predecessors?

To be clear, the AKP did encounter real opposition as it consolidated control. High-ranking military officers discussed plans for ousting the party during its first two years in power. In 2007, the chief of the general staff issued a memorandum on the military’s website reminding the AKP of the military’s ongoing commitment to secularism. Subsequently, the country’s head prosecutor began proceedings to formally disband the party for anti-secular activities. The case was heard in Turkey’s supreme court, where it was defeated by a single vote.

But all these efforts only make it more curious that the military did not take decisive action to overthrow the AKP. Indeed, when the AKP put a number of military officers on trial for a fictitious coup plot called the Ergenekon conspiracy, the military brass never went further in their protests than staging a mass resignation.

Perhaps the most obvious reason for military leaders’ otherwise surprising passivity is that they realized they would get no support from the Turkish population. In 1980, many citizens welcomed a military coup as an escape from growing political anarchy. In 1997, the military mobilized civil society organizations and the bureaucracy in support of its effort, which ultimately compelled the government’s resignation without an explicit show of force.

In 2003, when high-ranking military officers were first debating how to handle the AKP’s victory, they were acutely aware that, unlike in the past, they did not have the public on their side. Indeed, leaked documents suggest that the military considered waging a public-relations campaign against the government — with large-scale rallies and critical websites — instead of putting tanks on the street.

The public’s opposition to military meddling stemmed from their experience of the past and their hopes for the future.

For many of Erdogan’s pious supporters, rejecting the heavy-handed form of secularism the military had imposed after the 1997 coup was a motivation in itself. But the trauma of past coups also lived on among many of Erdogan’s critics, leaving

By **NICK DANFORTH**

Los Angeles Times

Nick Danforth is a senior policy analyst at the Bipartisan Policy Center. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



its mark on Turkey’s opposition parties as well. After the 1980 coup, the military had arrested, tortured and sometimes executed individuals from across Turkey’s ideological spectrum, including leftists associated with the Republican People’s Party, ultranationalists associated with the Nationalist Action Party and Kurds associated with the Peoples’ Democratic Party.

What’s more, in the early 2000s, European Union membership still seemed like a real possibility, and to many in the country and abroad Turkey appeared poised to make the leap from a “democratizing” and “developing” country to a democratic and developed one. Turkey’s generals and its population realized that another coup would make this transformation impossible.

As a result, at every stage in the AKP’s rise to power, the military’s tentative efforts to influence politics backfired, providing a rallying point for Erdogan to expand his base of support. In 2007, the military’s memorandum about secularism preceded, and many believe prompted, the AKP’s resounding victory at the polls several months later. And even as it became more clear that the evidence presented against the military in the Ergenekon trials was fraudulent, the trials remained popular among both liberals and Islamists, for whom defanging the military by any means was the priority.

Before the most recent coup attempt, the government was already quick to suggest that all of its domestic enemies, including secular journalists, Kurdish politicians and followers of the preacher Fethullah Gulen, were acting together in a vast conspiracy against it. The uprising proved that a conspiracy did exist, but that it was less extensive than Erdogan feared. Opposition parties and opposition media that had borne the brunt of Erdogan’s authoritarianism nonetheless stood with him against the plotters.

The AKP government has now declared a state of emergency, a measure the military had imposed after previous coups. Over the last several decades, the Turkish military’s behavior has discredited coups in the eyes of the Turkish people.

The risk now is that, in the coming years, Erdogan’s behavior will discredit the idea of civilian rule as well.

pline in presenting their case to voters, they can’t control events outside, this week or in the coming months. Terrorist incidents, economic setbacks, attacks on police, Russian or Chinese aggression — any number of events could have a major effect on voter feelings and choices. Speaking generally: Late-breaking disruptions tend to hurt the prospects of the party in power — the party playing defense.

Equally problematic is that those running the convention can’t undo all the impressions of Clinton that have shaped and hardened public perceptions of her. The Democrats of 1992 could have told her: Trust is an easy thing to lose and a hard thing to regain. Clinton and her party have their work cut out for them in Philadelphia.

HILLARY

From Page 10

from 2008, the most recent comparable year. Democrats had a falloff of 6 million voters.

While she and her party can exercise a great deal of disci-

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲89° ▼79°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.

▲89° ▼79°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲89° ▼79°

FRIDAY

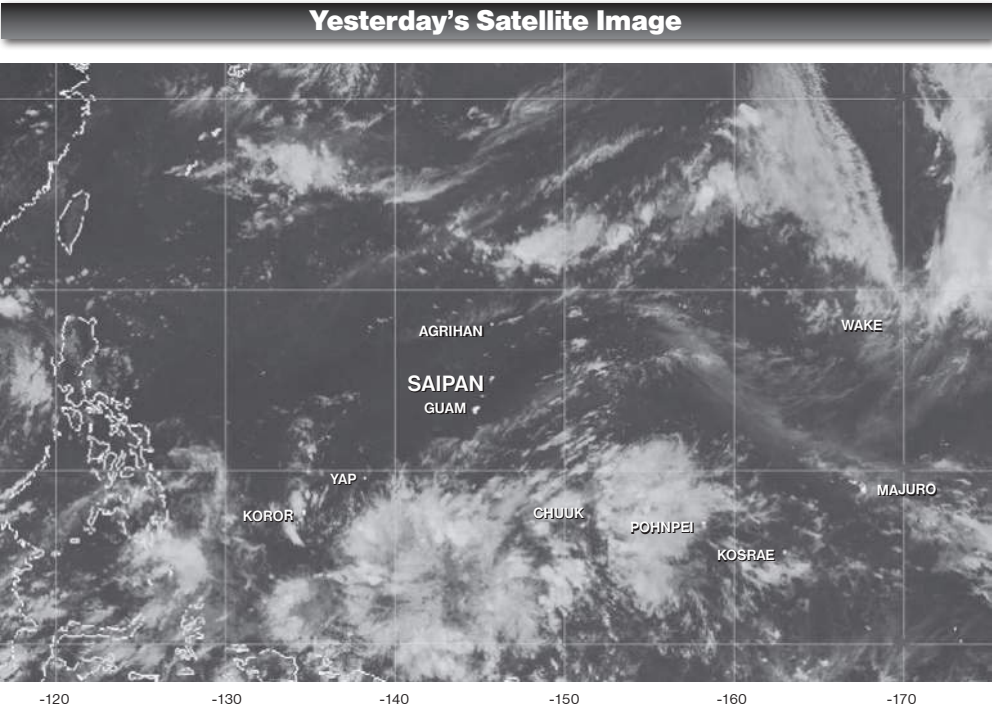
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲90° ▼80°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲90° ▼80°



PICTURE TIME: 5:00 AM, MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough could be found on last nights surface analysis just to the west of the Marianas. This trough brought a few showers and thunderstorms Sunday and early this morning. Weak high pressure in the wake of the trough will bring Mostly Sunny skies to the area today. Another surface trough could be found east of the Marianas. This trough will move west and pass across the local area late tonight and Tuesday. This mornings satellite imagery did show showers and thunderstorms associated with the trough to our east. Models depict showers moving over the Marianas as the trough passes, mainly after midnight tonight and part of Tuesday. Lightning was detected with the trough so isolated thunderstorms are possible tonight and Tuesday. Not certain if the scattered showers associated with the trough this morning will persist through tonight so just left shower coverage as isolated.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia ▼ ▲		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	85 / 92 °F
Palau	Partly sunny	78 / 86 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	78 / 90 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	76 / 85 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	83 / 87 °F

Around the Globe ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	53 / 58 °F
Beijing	Showers	73 / 92 °F
Hong Kong	Afternoon clouds	83 / 91 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 85 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	59 / 72 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	66 / 86 °F
Manila	Cloudy	79 / 93 °F
Melbourne	Afternoon clouds	44 / 51 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	82 / 89 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	79 / 93 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73 / 84 °F
Paris	Sunny	56 / 74 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	79 / 89 °F
Rome	Sunny	65 / 94 °F
Salem	Mostly sunny	58 / 83 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	54 / 73 °F
Seoul	Fog	75 / 87 °F
Tokyo	Showers	72 / 79 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	77 / 95 °F

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone

■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.99 Feet
7:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.35 Feet
1:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.48 Feet
7:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.71 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:43 PM	11:31 AM
Wednesday	-	12:28 PM
Thursday	12:32 AM	1:27 PM
Friday	1:23 AM	2:26 PM
Saturday	2:16 AM	3:25 PM

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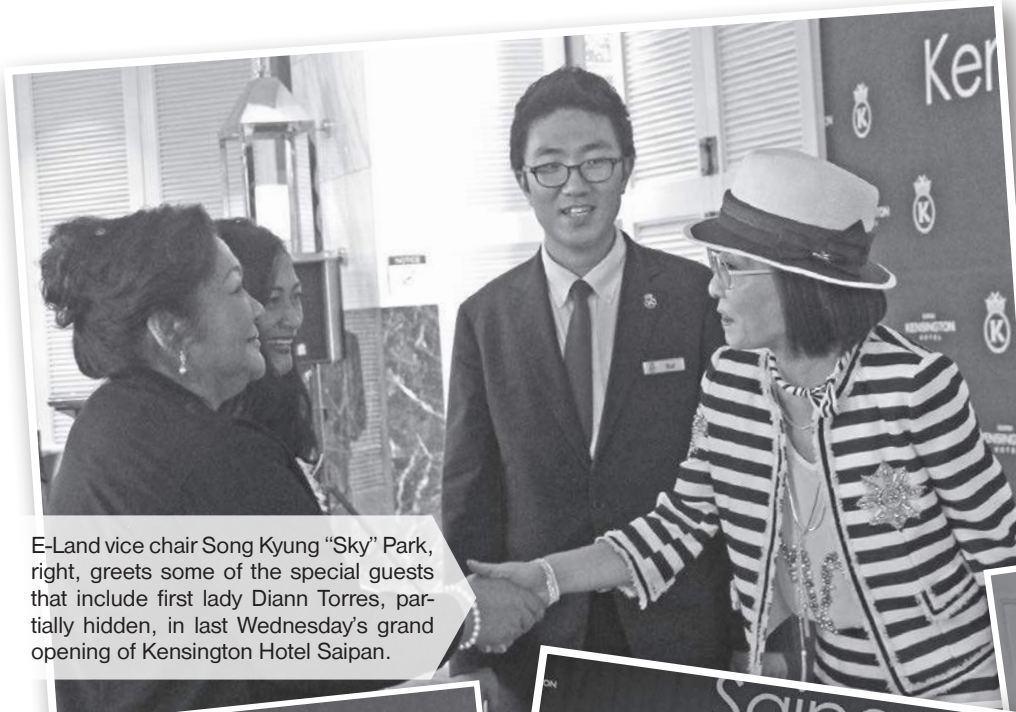
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily		
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota		
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily		
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily		
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM			PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7		
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4			UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM		
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM		
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR			UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM								
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM								
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR								
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7								

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Kensington Hotel Saipan Grand Opening

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



E-Land vice chair Song Kyung "Sky" Park, right, greets some of the special guests that include first lady Diann Torres, partially hidden, in last Wednesday's grand opening of Kensington Hotel Saipan.



Kensington Saipan Myung Wook "Matthew" Park delivers the welcoming remarks.



Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) congratulates E-Land and Kensington officials in behalf of the CNMI Legislature.



Pacific Winds Small Ensemble members entertain the crowd with mellow melodies.



Acting governor Victor B. Hocog addresses the crowd.



One can unwind at Ohas Café & Bar after a day's work.



Kids of hotel guest can spend the day at Cocomong Camp.



Dancers from the Teivi Maori group perform for the crowd at the Kensington Hall function room.



Sit, relax, and enjoy the view of the Saipan sunset at the outdoor lounge chairs.



Kensington's spacious lobby.

Business

'Pokemon Go' players stumble on hidden history

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Historical markers have long dotted the landscape, often barely noticed by passers-by—until they became treasure-filled stops this month on the “Pokemon Go” trail.

Players hunting for fictional creatures on their smartphones are now visiting real-life memorial plaques, statues, mosaics and landmarks, ranging from a Civil War battlefield in Chancellorsville, Virginia, to a Hells Angels clubhouse on New Zealand’s North Island.

Some don’t bother to linger at these Pokestops, staying just long enough to stock up on the virtual balls they’ll use to bonk and capture the next Pokemon. But for others, the GPS-powered “augmented reality” game is heightening awareness of the history and geography of their neighborhoods.

“Before I was just going from Point A to Point B, but now I’m learning things,” said 15-year-old Jaiden Cruz as he walked by a plaque Wednesday in downtown Providence, Rhode Island, marking where Abraham Lincoln spoke at an old railroad hall in 1860. The plaque is a Pokestop, and shortly before Cruz arrived, another player dropped a “lure mod-



In this Monday, July 18, 2016, photo, a “Pokemon Go” player shows his mobile phone while walking through the Boston Common, outside the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston.

ule” that attracts Pokemon to the site.

The 380-year-old city abounds with Pokestops, including the nation’s oldest Baptist church—founded by religious dissident Roger Williams in 1638—and a stone marking where French troops camped during the Revolutionary War.

“It gets you to learn about your surroundings,” said 59-year-old Cheryl DiMarzio, who on the advice of her

daughter ventured into an urban park to capture an owl-like Pidgey and some purple rodent Rattatas. “Different landmarks, the statues and historical places.”

How such markers became the backbone of the wildly popular video game that launched this month is a story that goes back at least five years, when tech giant Google signed a licensing agreement to use The Historical Marker Database, a vol-

unteer-run website that has tracked the geographic coordinates of more than 80,000 historical markers around the world, most of them in the United States.

J.J. Prats, founder and publisher of the Virginia-based marker database, said many but not all the Pokestops and Pokemon gyms - where players send their creatures into battle - are from his website. He’s thrilled.

“Hopefully people will take

their eyes off the phone and read the historical markers,” Prats said.

The game has delighted Anthony Golding, a middle

school history teacher in Tupelo, Mississippi, who is looking forward to incorporating Pokestops into his curriculum in the fall.

What to do about superior’s foul language?

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of “Secrets to Winning at Office Politics.” Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: I work in a very small medical practice where one of the owners has an extremely foul mouth. Whenever “Dr. Smith” is upset, he curses at employees and frequently drops the F-bomb. This is highly offensive to everyone on the staff, but we’re afraid of losing our jobs if we complain. What can we do about this?

A: The bad news is that small, privately owned businesses provide few options for dealing with difficult owners. The good news, however, is that this medical practice is apparently owned by more than one person. Since another owner can approach Dr. Potty Mouth as a peer, that’s where you should take your concerns.

Because a single complaint could easily be dismissed and ignored, you need to present this problem as a group. Without becoming angry or upset, describe the negative effects of this physician’s crude behavior.

For example: “When Dr. Smith is angry, he curses at employees using highly offensive language, which is very demoralizing for the staff. If patients hear these outbursts, that could hurt the reputation of the practice. We’re afraid to give Dr. Smith this feedback, so we’re hoping that you can talk with him.”

This assumes, of course, that the other owner is a responsible individual who is also disturbed by these tantrums. But if not, then your only recourse is to find a more professional place to work.

Q: When I was interviewing two years ago, my manager said he would retire in a few years and that I could then take over his job. Since I was hired, however, he has again never mentioned retirement, so there seems to be no definite timeline.

A: Although headhunters occasionally call me about other opportunities, so far I haven’t explored any of them. I would prefer to remain with this company, but only if I get the expected promotion. Should I ask my boss about his retirement plans?

A: Waiting for someone to retire can be frustrating, especially when that person shows no signs of leaving. But before initiating an awkward conversation, perhaps you should review exactly what your boss said two years ago.

During interviews, applicants can easily mistake a manager’s encouraging comments for a commitment. Making a firm decision about a new hire several years in advance would be both strange and foolish, so this promotion may have been more of a possibility than a promise. And since retirement “in a few years” sounds like a vague intention with an open-ended deadline, your boss’s plans may very well have changed.

Despite all that, requesting an assessment of your career potential would certainly be reasonable. So instead of inquiring about your manager’s future, ask him about your own.

For example: “I really enjoy working here and hope to stay with this company for a long time. However, I occasionally get calls from headhunters about other opportunities, so I would like to get your perspective on my career path here. What are your thoughts about that?”

If your boss mentions you as his successor, you can appropriately ask about his retirement plans. But if not, then you can only assume that something has changed in the past two years.

G-20 countries pledge to protect against Brexit shock

BEIJING (AP)—Global finance officials promised Sunday to protect the world economy from the shockwaves of Britain’s European Union referendum and to boost sluggish growth.

Envoys of the Group of 20 major economies also rejected trade protectionism, an issue that has risen in prominence as U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump stirs unease with talk about restricting access to American markets.

The gathering of finance ministers and central bank governors from the United States, China, Britain, Germany and other governments

took place against a backdrop of a weak global recovery that was rattled by Britain’s vote to leave the EU and trade tension over Chinese exports of low-priced steel.

The British vote “increased global economic uncertainty,” said a joint statement by the officials, who were meeting in Chengdu in western China.

“G-20 members are ready to actively respond to the potential economic and financial impact brought by the British referendum,” said the statement. “In the future, we hope to see Britain as a close partner of the EU.”

On Friday, the director-

general of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, called for quick action to end uncertainty about the British-EU split. She said that turmoil prompted the IMF to cut its forecast of this year’s global growth by 0.1 percentage point.

Sunday’s statement promised to use “any and all policy instruments” to achieve “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth objectives.” The governments promised to strengthen communication and cooperation but announced no joint action, as some financial traders had hoped.

“We are taking action to

boost confidence and promote growth,” said the statement.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said ahead of the meeting that it was not the right time for coordinated action similar to that in 2008-09 following the global crisis because economies face different conditions.

“Overall, the general sense was that the outlook remains uncertain,” Lew said in a statement Sunday. “There is now broad consensus that what the global economy needs is growth—not austerity—and the discussions here have focused on how best to achieve that outcome.”

Verizon said to be buyer of Yahoo for \$5 billion: Reports

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon has agreed to buy online portal Yahoo Inc. for roughly \$5 billion, according to multiple media reports, each citing a single unnamed source.

The deal is expected to be announced formally on Monday before markets open, the reports said.

Verizon had emerged in recent days as the front-runner for the beleaguered internet company. Yahoo is expected to sell its email service and

news, finance and sports websites in addition to its advertising tools under pressure from shareholders fed up with a downturn in the company’s revenue during the past eight years.

The deal is likely to end the four-year reign of Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, a former Google executive who flopped in her attempts to turn around the Sunnyvale, California, company.

Yahoo has been in a long,

deep slump even as advertisers have been pouring more money into what is now a \$160 billion market for digital advertising, according to research firm eMarketer.

Most of that money has been flowing to internet search leader Google and social networking giant Facebook. They are two of several companies that have eclipsed Yahoo, who slid from an online sensation once valued at \$130 billion to a dysfunctional

also-ran. Yahoo attempted to buy both companies while in their infancy.

After the sale is completed, Yahoo will become a holding company for its two stakes in China’s e-commerce leader, Alibaba Group, and Yahoo Japan, which is where the majority of Yahoo’s market value comes from.

Yahoo declined to comment on the reports. A spokesman for Verizon did not return requests for comment.

Nation

DNC starts in Philadelphia with huge protests, high temps

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Democratic National Convention gets underway in Philadelphia on Monday with much bigger demonstrations than the Republican convention and much higher temperatures, as the region copes with an oppressive heat wave.

In one of the largest rallies planned for the day, a pro-Bernie Sanders group is expected to walk across the Ben Franklin Bridge, which connects Camden, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.

The demonstrations, largely driven by Sanders supporters, have been peaceful, so far.

On Sunday, throngs of people marched along a main thoroughfare of the city to show their support for Sanders and their disdain for Hillary Clinton.

They chanted “Hell No, DNC, we won’t vote for Hillary” and “This is what democracy looks like.”

Though planned for months, the marches came as fractures appeared in the party that had been trying to display a show of unity in recent weeks. Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned Sunday as Democratic Party chair over an email suggesting the DNC had played



favorites for Clinton during the primary.

The Democrats had been trying to avoid the divide that was apparent in Cleveland during the Republican National Convention last week. But the hacked emails, published by Wikileaks, further fired up

Sanders supporters, who long accused the party of favoring Clinton despite officially being neutral.

Sanders had called for Wasserman Schultz’s resignation, and said Sunday night she made the right decision for the party’s future by resigning.

Darcy Samek, 54, traveled alone from Minneapolis to protest through the four-day convention. She said Wasserman Schultz has been a “miserable failure” who needed to be gone.

“Everyone kind of knew (the Democratic party was against

Bernie Sanders), but that doesn’t mean it will change now that it’s proven. It’s just more of the same,” she said.

Philadelphia police called Sunday’s protests, peaceful, and said they were pleased with how things were going, so far.

Protesters march during a demonstration in downtown on Sunday, July 24, 2016, in Philadelphia. The Democratic National Convention starts Monday.

Earlier in the day, thousands of clean energy activists jammed a downtown street in their mile-long march from City Hall to Independence Hall, near the Liberty Bell. They held anti-fracking and anti-pipeline signs, some with illustrations like a train surrounded by a fireball and the words “No Exploding Trains.” Others held “Bernie or Bust” signs.

Sam Miller, 82, traveled from Erie, Pennsylvania, to join the march that stretched several blocks and across a wide street as temperatures in the city soared into the mid-90s. He said he was inspired because “fracking is invading Mother Earth.”

The heat wave is not going away anytime soon. It will hit a peak on Monday with temperatures in the city possibly reaching 100 degrees, but feeling like 108, according to the National Weather Service.

Officials said volunteers will be handing out water to demonstrators all week.

ACROSS THE NATION

28 injured in crash involving bus, Jeep and tractor-trailer

YEADON, Pa. (AP)—More than two dozen people have been injured in a crash involving a bus, a Jeep and a tractor-trailer. It happened Sunday evening in Yeadon, just outside of Philadelphia. Officials say the Jeep pulled out of a driveway and onto the road and crashed into the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority bus, which then hit the tractor-trailer. A SEPTA spokesman tells WCAU-TV that 26 passengers on the bus and two pedestrians were hurt. Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening. The investigation into the crash is ongoing.

Dallas Cowboys bus involved in fatal crash in Arizona

KINGMAN, Ariz. (AP)—Four people were killed Sunday when bus carrying Dallas Cowboys staffers but no players collided with a van on a northwestern Arizona highway. The fatalities were passengers in the van, Arizona Department of Public Safety spokesman Quentin Mehr said. But

the bus occupants emerged uninjured. “All on the bus came through OK with some bumps and bruises,” Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple (DAHL’-rimp-ul) said in an email. Dalrymple said the bus was only carrying members of the franchise’s staff but would not say how many. There were no players on board.

The two vehicles collided in the afternoon on U.S. 93, about 30 miles north of the city of Kingman, according to DPS.

Skydiver missing after jump in Oklahoma

CUSHING, Okla. (AP)—Crews in Oklahoma are searching for a missing skydiver whose parachute has been recovered. Local media report the skydiver, a woman in her 20s from Kansas, jumped around 3:45 p.m. Sunday near Cushing. Her parachute was found in a wooded area, but she wasn’t with it. Multiple law enforcement agencies and the Red Cross are assisting in the search, and Lincoln County Sheriff Charlie Dougherty says crews will be working through the night.

‘Like a freight train’: California wildfire guts 18 homes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Flames raced down a steep hillside “like a freight train,” leaving smoldering remains of homes and forcing thousands to flee the wildfire churning through tinder-dry canyons in Southern California, authorities said Sunday.

The fire that has destroyed at least 18 homes in northern Los Angeles County gained ferocious new power two days after it broke out, sending so much smoke in the air that planes making drops on it had to be grounded for part of the afternoon.

“For this time of year, it’s the most extreme fire behavior

I’ve seen in my 32-year career,” County fire Chief Daryl Osby said.

About 300 miles up the coast, crews were battling another fire spanning more than 16 square miles and forcing evacuations outside the scenic Big Sur region.

The Southern California blaze has blackened more than 34 square miles of brush on ridgelines near the city of Santa Clarita, and authorities found a burned body in a car. No new measurements were available, but officials said the fire might now be double that size.

Planes were unable to

make drops over the fire for a long stretch of the afternoon before resuming for a few hours before dusk. Helicopters released retardant around the perimeter of the fire all day and would continue into the night.

“The fire’s just doing what it wants right now,” U.S. Forest Service spokesman Nathan Judy said. “We have to stick back, let it do what it wants to and attack it where we can.”

Juliet Kinikin said Sunday there was panic as the sky became dark with smoke and flames moved closer to her home a day earlier in the Sand

Canyon area of Los Angeles County.

“And then we just focused on what really mattered in the house,” she told The Associated Press.

Kinikin grabbed important documents and fled with her husband, two children, two dogs and three birds. They were back at home Sunday, “breathing a big sigh of relief,” she said.

Residents of thousands of homes were evacuated as shifting winds were pushing flames northeast through Angeles National Forest, authorities said.

Heat wave, drought showing no signs of slowing down

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The heat wave gripping parts of the country including Philadelphia, where tens of thousands are descending upon the city for the Democratic National Convention this week, is not going away anytime soon and will hit a peak Monday with temperatures in the city feeling like 108 degrees.

Excessive heat warnings will continue Monday, the first day of the convention, in the Philadelphia area, most of the Midwest and regions out west. It’s due to a dome of

high pressure, meteorologists say, that’s affecting most of the United States and contributing to drought conditions in the Northeast and continuing to fuel wildfires in California.

“It’s fair to say that the vast majority of the nation has been experiencing above normal temperatures for the past week,” said David Robinson, New Jersey state climatologist at Rutgers University.

The dome of high pressure traps hot air and is the basis for the “critical high temperatures” the country has been

experiencing the past week, Robinson said, even for being the warmest time of the year.

Thunderstorms are common, as they were in parts of New England over the weekend, but don’t help much with drought conditions in the Northeast and out west. Particularly dry weather in areas like Massachusetts and New York have forced farmers to choose which crops they will water and which will just not survive the season.

“The Northeast is a little bit of a mixed bag, but the bot-

tom line is that the conditions have deteriorated over the past several weeks to a couple of months,” said Rich Tinker, a drought specialist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In southern California, where drought has persisted for years, 18 homes have been destroyed and more than 34 square miles of brush have been blackened in a blaze that sparked Friday. Los Angeles Fire Chief John Tripp said the fire “started consuming houses” “like a freight train.”

Asia

China scores diplomatic victory, avoids criticism from ASEAN

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—China scored a diplomatic victory Monday, avoiding criticism by Southeast Asia's main grouping over its territorial expansion in the South China Sea even though some of the bloc's members are victims of Beijing's actions.

After hectic negotiations, the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations issued a watered-down rebuke that amounted to less than a slap on the wrist, and exposed the deep divisions in a regional bloc that prides itself on unity.

In a joint communique released after their talks, the foreign ministers of ASEAN said only that they "remain seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments" in the South China Sea. The statement did not mention China by name in referring to the developments.

Most significantly, it failed to mention a recent ruling by an international arbitration panel in a dispute between the Philippines and China that said Beijing's claims in the South China Sea were illegal and that the Philippines was justifiably the aggrieved party. China has dismissed the ruling as bogus, saying the Hague-based tribunal has no authority to rule on what



Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, sixth from left, and Laotian Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, sixth from right, stand with Southeast Asian foreign ministers, from left, an unidentified delegate from Malaysia, Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar, Vivian Balakrishnan of Singapore, Don Pramudwinai of Thailand, Pham Binh Minh of Vietnam, Thongloun Sisoulith, Saleumxay Kommasith, Perfecto Yasay Jr. of the Philippines, Brunei's Trade Minister Jock Seng Pehin Lim, Sakhonn Prak of Cambodia, Retno Marsudi of Indonesia and ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh, as they pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the 49th Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, Sunday, July 24, 2016.

Beijing calls bilateral disputes. China wants direct negotiations with the Philippines instead.

China was able to push through its stance in ASEAN with the help of Cambodia, and to some extent Laos, both of which are close friends of

Beijing. ASEAN's guiding principle is to make all state-ments by consensus, so a veto by Cambodia would have prevented a more stinging rebuke.

"We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, sta-

bility, safety and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea," the joint statement said.

"We further reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of ac-

tivities and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation," it said.

Such statements have previously been issued, notably after an ASEAN-U.S. sum-

mit in California in February, and have led to criticism that ASEAN is becoming a toothless organization.

"Certainly, Cambodia's paralysis of ASEAN ... hurts ASEAN's unity, cohesion, relevance and reputation," said Malcolm Cook, an analyst at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, a Singapore think-tank. "It makes ASEAN peripheral, not central, on this issue."

"For Laos and Cambodia, they clearly see relations with China as more important than their membership in ASEAN and are willing to damage ASEAN to aid their relations with China," he said.

The South China Sea is dotted with reefs and rocky outcroppings that several governments claim, including China and the Philippines. The arbitration panel didn't take a position on who owns the disputed territories. It did conclude that many of them are legally rocks, even if they've been built into islands, and therefore do not include the international rights to develop the surrounding waters. That and other findings invalidated much of what China has called its historic claims to the resource-rich sea.

Obama aide visits China after South China Sea ruling

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice held talks in Beijing on Monday with Chinese officials in the highest-level visit by a White House official since an international tribunal issued a ruling that invalidated China's expansive claims in the South China Sea.

The tribunal's July 12 ruling delivered a victory to the Philippines, a U.S. ally, but angered China and appears

set to heighten regional tensions. The U.S., whose Navy patrols the waters, has called on China to abide by the ruling while also urging calm.

The topic was not raised in opening remarks in front of reporters at Rice's meeting with China's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi.

On Monday, Rice told Yang that the U.S. and China have been cooperating more closely on global issues such as nuclear

nonproliferation and the Ebola epidemic. She acknowledged that the sides also faced other "global issues and challenges."

"To the extent that we are able to surface those challenges in candor and openness, I'm confident that we will be able to work on them as we have many others in the past," Rice said.

Yang said that the sides had stable relations, but that there were still differences that had

to be carefully managed.

Rice's visit is also aimed at preparing for U.S. President Barack Obama's trip to China in September to attend the leaders' summit of the Group of 20 major economies.

Rice will also visit Shanghai and meet with business executives to discuss challenges that U.S. businesses face while operating in China, according to a statement from the U.S. National Security Council.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nepal's prime minister resigns after losing majority support

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's prime minister resigned on Sunday shortly before he was to face a confidence vote in parliament that he expected to lose, further aggravating political instability in the Himalayan country. Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's 9-month-old government had lost its majority support this month after the Maoist party pulled out of the coalition, accusing Oli of failing to honor power-sharing agreements. In a nationally televised speech in parliament, Oli said Sunday that the way he was forced to resign would have far-reaching implications for the country and lead to further political instability. "The opposition parties hatched a conspiracy for narrow interests, and I am stunned by that," he said.

China to shut political, social news sites run by websites

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say Beijing authorities have shut down several news programs run by major web portals in the latest round of efforts to restrict reporting of political and social

news. The state-run Beijing News said late Sunday that the municipal office in charge of cyberspace regulations had ordered news portals of Sina, Sohu, Netease and iFeng to end their news programs known for more freewheeling coverage. The government office did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

India refuses to renew visas for 3 Chinese journalists

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's government has refused to renew the visas for three Chinese journalists working for China's official Xinhua News Agency, an official said Sunday, meaning they will have to leave the country by the end of this month. The official declined to disclose the reasons for the refusal to renew the visas—a move that comes amid tensions between the two countries—but said Xinhua could send replacements for the journalists. The official said that the three had received several visa extensions and that one of them has been in India for the past seven years. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Thousands attend funeral for slain critic of Cambodia leader

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Tens of thousands of Cambodians marched Sunday in the funeral procession for a leading government critic who was fatally shot in an attack that raised suspicion of a political conspiracy.

A farm worker who was caught red-handed told police he killed Kem Ley, 45, over a \$3,000 loan. However, the suspect's wife said the family was too poor to lend so much money. Cambodia has a brutal history of political violence.

Although there was no overt political sloganeering during the procession, the huge

crowds reflected the massive anti-government sentiment that could pose a challenge to Prime Minister Hun Sen, who was a frequent target of Kem Ley's criticism.

Since the July 10 murder, Kem Ley's body had been kept at a Buddhist temple in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, for people to pay respects. It was placed in a glass casket on a decorated vehicle that set out at dawn and took almost 12 hours to complete a largely motorized 70-kilometer (43-mile) journey to his hometown in Takeo province for a Monday funeral.

A float carrying Kem Ley's widow, Bou Rachana, and children, dressed in the Buddhist mourning color of white, drove ahead of the hearse, which was followed by people on foot, motorcycles, cars and motor rickshaws. Some carried his portraits.

Most of the marchers wore white T-shirts with pictures of Kem Ley, and some had printed slogans: "Wipe your tears and continue your journey." Many also waved religious and Cambodian flags in what appeared to be one of the biggest public rallies in Cambodia in recent times.

Crowd numbers were hard

to estimate, because the procession was constantly moving and many were in cars and other vehicles. However, with people gathered all along the route, and large numbers also at the destination, claims of 100,000 or 200,000 were credible.

The last such turnout was when opposition leader Sam Rainsy returned from exile on July 22, 2013. Sam Rainsy, the strongest rival to Hun Sen, survived a 1997 grenade attack on a rally of his followers that killed 16 people and wounded more than 100. No one was ever brought to justice in the incident.

World

Iraq finally bans fake bomb detectors after July 3 blast

BAGHDAD (AP)—For nearly a decade, anyone driving through one of Baghdad's many checkpoints was subjected to a search by a soldier pointing a security wand at their vehicle and watching the device intently to see if its antenna moved. If it pointed at the car, it had supposedly detected a possible bomb.

The wands were completely bogus. It had been proven years ago, even before 2013 when two British men were convicted in separate trials on fraud charges for selling the detectors. The devices, sold under various names for thousands of dollars each, apparently were based on a product that sold for about \$20 and claimed to find golf balls.

Yet the Iraqi government continued to use the devices, spending nearly \$60 million on them despite warnings by U.S. military commanders and the wands' proven failure to stop near-daily bombings in Baghdad.

It took a massive suicide bombing that killed almost 300 people in Baghdad on July 3—the deadliest single attack in the capital in 13 years

of war—for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to finally ban their use.

The reason it took so long is likely the widespread corruption in the government. Iraqis mocked the device from the start, joking that too much aftershave could set off the antenna.

Now there are accusations that plans to start using newly imported explosives-detecting scanners were intentionally held up as part of the political wrangling over which faction—the military or the police—will control security in Baghdad.

Since the wands were banned, soldiers at Baghdad checkpoints largely wave motorists through, occasionally asking for vehicle registrations and driver's licenses and taking a quick look inside. Plainclothes intelligence agents scrutinize drivers and passengers. Police dogs have been used at some checkpoints, but that has proven to be time-consuming and contributing to traffic congestion.

In some places, the wands are still being used—at some checkpoints in Baghdad and in the southern port city of Basra,



AP
In this Thursday, July 14, 2016 picture, an Iraqi policeman uses a hand-held device that is supposed to detect bombs at a checkpoint in Basra, 340 miles (550 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq.

to stop using them.

Faced with mounting criticism, former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ordered an investigation into the effectiveness of the devices in 2010. The outcome was inconclusive, and they continued to be used.

The head of the Interior Ministry's bomb squad department, Jihad al-Jabri, was convicted in 2012 and sentenced to four years in prison for accepting a bribe from the British manufacturers. But the case against him did not address whether the wands were effective. Many Iraqis believe he was a scapegoat to protect more senior Iraqi officials from prosecution.

Politics also may have played a role.

After the July 3 blast, al-Abadi fired the military officer in charge of Baghdad's security and accepted the resignation of Interior Minister Mohammed Salem al-Ghabban, who was in charge of police.

Bavarian official: Ansbach attack suggests Islamist motive

ANSBACH, Germany (AP)—Bavaria's top security official said Monday that he believes a failed asylum seeker who blew himself up and injured 12 people in the southern German town of Ansbach was driven by religious extremism.

"My personal view is that I unfortunately think it's very likely this really was an Islamist suicide attack," Bavarian interior minister Joachim Herrmann told German news agency dpa.

The 27-year-old Syrian blew himself up after being turned away from an open-air music festival. Herrmann said the man's request for asylum was rejected a year ago, but he was allowed to remain in Germany because of the strife in Syria.

The unnamed man had repeatedly received psychiatric treatment, including for attempted suicide, Herrmann said.

Asked whether the bomber might have links to the Islamic State group, Herrmann said that couldn't be ruled out, though there was no concrete evidence for this yet.

"The obvious intention to kill more people indicates an Islamist connection," he told dpa.

Earlier Monday, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office

in Ansbach said the attacker's motive wasn't clear.

"If there is an Islamist link or not is purely speculation at this point," said the spokesman, Michael Schrotberger.

Roman Fertinger, the deputy police chief in nearby Nuremberg, said it was likely there would have been more casualties if the man had managed to enter the concert venue.

Three of the 12 victims suffered serious injuries in the blast. The attacker's rucksack had contained sharp bits of metal.

The explosion came as Germany, and the southern state of Bavaria in particular, have been on edge.

Earlier Sunday, a Syrian man killed a woman with a machete and wounded two others outside a bus station in the southwestern city of Regensburg before being arrested. Police said there were no indications pointing to terrorism.

Two days earlier, a man went on a deadly rampage at a Munich mall, killing nine people and leaving dozens wounded.

And an ax attack on a train near Wuerzburg last Monday wounded five. A 17-year-old Afghan asylum-seeker was shot and killed by police as he fled the scene.

Iraq's third-largest city—nearly two weeks after the Baghdad bombing. They also were used across the holy city of Najaf south of Baghdad for at least a week after al-Abadi's order before they were finally recalled.

"The withdrawal of the device is continuing, but it's still in use here and there, for now," Brig. Gen. Saad Maan, the Interior Ministry's chief spokesman, told The Associated Press. He said the new vehicles equipped with scanners have been deployed at check-

points on major roads leading to the capital.

"All this will have a positive impact on Baghdad's security," he said.

Officials say the explosives-laden minibus used in the July 3 attack in Baghdad's central Karradah district started its journey in Diyala province, traveling 50 kilometers (31 miles) to the capital. The vehicle, a type used as communal taxis in Iraq, would have encountered at least half a dozen checkpoints, most of which likely used the wand. Investi-

gators say the vehicle carried a 250-kilogram (550-pound) bomb.

Four days after the Karradah bombing, three suicide bombers struck a Shiite shrine in Balad, north of Baghdad, killing 37 people. A series of small bombings also rocked the capital, killing about two dozen people.

When Iraqi security forces first began using the ADE-651 wands, U.S. and British military commanders in Iraq dismissed the devices as useless and counseled the government

Protesting migrants ask EU leaders why borders are closed

HORGOS, Serbia (AP)—A group of migrants and asylum-seekers who set off two days ago on a protest march toward Hungary reached the European Union-member state's border on Sunday, saying they want to ask European leaders why it is closed for the thousands fleeing war and poverty.

Walking slowly under a Serbian police escort, several dozen people approached Serbia's border with Hungary in a bid to protest Budapest's decision to keep it shut for most asylum-seekers, which has left several thousand people

stranded in Serbia.

"We all are humans and we are all here because we have lots of problems in our own country," said Sayed Mohsen Shah, from Pakistan.

Some 300 mostly young men and boys from Afghanistan and Pakistan started marching Friday from Belgrade toward the Hungarian border, 200 kilometers (120 miles) away. Faced with scorching heat, many gave up along the way, while others traveled part of the route by train.

Hungary recently strength-

ened anti-migrant controls on its southern border, admitting about 30 people a day, mostly families with small children, and pushing back those caught trying to cross illegally.

Hundreds of migrants already are staying in makeshift camps along the border with almost no facilities.

"I have a message for EU leaders, I want to go to the border and stay and ask why you closed the border," said 19-year-old Mohammad Amin from Afghanistan.

Amin said he has tried twice to cross into Hungary, but was

pushed back. He claimed Hungarian police were using "dogs, spray, electroshocks" against the migrants.

"They said to me to go back (to) Serbia," he said.

Faced with a pileup of refugees, Serbian authorities also have announced stricter joint army and police border controls with Bulgaria and Macedonia, from where migrants mostly enter Serbia. Most of the people stranded in Serbia have refused to apply for asylum there, fearing it would ruin their chances of reaching any EU nation.

Turkish opposition party denounces coup attempt

ISTANBUL (AP)—Tens of thousands of supporters of Turkey's main opposition group, joined by some ruling party members, rallied Sunday in Istanbul to denounce a July 15 coup attempt, a rare show of unity that belies opposition unease over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's crackdown since the failed uprising.

The flag-waving demonstrators in the city's Taksim square reflected widespread rejection of the coup attempt in a NATO country that has endured several coups in past

decades. Even so, these are tense times in Turkey, which has declared a three-month state of emergency and detained more than 13,000 people in the military, judiciary and other institutions.

Steel barriers were erected around the square to protect the marchers, who entered through security checkpoints. In addition to the violence during the insurrection, Turkey has been hit by deadly bombings and other attacks blamed on the Islamic State group and Kurdish rebels.

The rally was organized

by the opposition Republican People's Party, which was close to secularist generals who used to control the military. The party has lost clout since Erdogan came to power more than a decade ago with votes from a pious Muslim class that was sidelined under Turkey's past secular rulers.

"The coup attempt was done against our democratic, secular, social state, governed by rule of law," Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the Republican People's Party, said in a speech. Kilicdaroglu did not direct-

ly criticize Erdogan, though he stressed the importance of a free press and freedom of assembly and the dangers of dictatorship and authoritarianism. The remarks partly echoed his recent criticism that Turkey's state of emergency jeopardizes democracy by granting extra powers to Erdogan.

Despite Turkey's deep political divisions, Istanbul's mayor and other leaders of the ruling Justice and Development Party joined the opposition demonstrators to denounce military intervention in politics.

Focus

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO
AP RETAIL WRITER

Breaking down the gender stereotypes in kids' clothing

NEW YORK (AP)—Pink for girls. Truck motifs for boys. A growing number of parents want to get outside those parameters when it comes to dressing their kids.

Kristin Higgins was adamant about not pushing “girly” stereotypes on her daughter, and painted her room in shades of green. Higgins later dressed her up in superhero costumes. But as her daughter got older, it took more work to locate items that broke the mold. For “Star Wars”-themed pajamas, she had to go to the boys’ section.

“It’s hard to find gender-neutral clothing,” said Higgins, 35, of Little Rock, whose daughter is now 6. “I want her to just get up and put on the clothing without thinking of putting on a costume, an identity.”

Shopping for her 7-month-old son, Higgins finds clothes mainly have pictures like fire engines or sharks. What about cats, cupcakes or hearts, she wonders.

For parents looking for clothes that defy gender norms, the options for back-to-school shopping are still limited—but they’re growing. Some big retailers like Lands’ End and Zara are making small changes to their offerings, while some frustrated parents have launched their own companies to make the items they wanted to find.

“There is really a sharp divide between what is considered girls’ stuff and what’s considered boys’ stuff,” said Courtney Hartman. She started Seattle-based *Jessy & Jack*, a collection of unisex T-shirts for kids that have robots and dinosaurs, and *Free to Be Kids*, where a shirt with the slogan, “I’m a Cat Guy” comes in blue, gray and yellow.

Companies like *Jessy & Jack* and a collection called *Princess Awesome*, where dresses have trains and planes, are among nearly 20 online brands that formed a campaign called *Clothes Without Limits* last year that they’re reprising for the back-to-school season. Still, many of the items are not cheap—T-shirts at \$20 can be pricey for growing kids.

Bigger companies are offering some options, after similar shifts in the toy and bedding aisles to more neutral signs and products. Lands’ End launched a line of science T-shirts two years ago after a customer complained on social media that there was only one version for boys. As part of its new *Cat & Jack* brand of children’s clothing that kids helped design, Target offers unisex-fit T-shirts online



In this Thursday, July 7, 2016, photo, some of the gender-neutral clothing made by Courtney Hartman is displayed at her home in Seattle. Hartman owns *Jessy & Jack*, a collection of unisex T-shirts, and *Free to Be Kids*, where a shirt with the slogan, “I’m a Cat Guy” comes in blue, gray and yellow. For parents looking to dress their kids in clothing that defy gender norms, options for the back-to-school shopping season are still limited, but they’re growing.



In this Friday, July 8, 2016, photo, Chris Guerin poses for a photo with his children Charlie, 3, right, and Danny in Portland, Ore.

with slogans like, “Smart & Strong” and “Future Astronaut.”

And fast-fashion chain Zara launched a collection in March for teens and older called “Ungendered” under its TRF line, which focuses on basics like T-shirts, sweatshirts and jeans. Experts and parents also notice that some images like dinosaurs are popping up on girls’ clothing under the

Boden brand and others.

More has changed for girls’ clothes than for boys, but the vast majority of children’s clothing is still gender-specific, says Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market research group NPD Group Inc.

Martine Zoer, who founded Seattle-based *Quirky Kids* because her sons wanted to wear pink, said that in response to her selling unisex shirts in that hue,

she says she got emails saying “boys should not wear pink as it would turn them gay.”

A good portion of children’s clothing buyers are grandparents who tend to embrace more traditional ideas, says Cohen, who doesn’t expect large-scale change until the next generation starts having children.

“Once we get past the cultural discussion, that’s when



In this Friday, July 8, 2016, photo, Charlie Guerin, 3, left, shows off her colorful outfit with her brother, Danny, 1, in Portland, Ore.

you’ll see the (major) brands step out,” Cohen said. “No one wants to risk the chance of rocking the boat.”

Chris Guerin of Portland, Oregon, says teaching his mother-in-law to buy clothes that don’t reinforce gender stereotypes is a work in progress.

“When she goes shopping with Nana, she comes back with princess (outfits) and tiaras,” Guerin says of his 3-year-old daughter. “We don’t care for that. But it’s hard to bring up the issue.”

The differences crystallized in the late 1980s, according to Jo B. Paoletti, a professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland and author of “Pink and Blue: Telling the Girls from the Boys in America.” Paoletti noticed it when buying clothing for her daughter, who was born in 1982, and her son, four years later. By the mid-1990s, “pink-washing was widespread,” she said. Even disposable diapers came in blue and pink.

In part, manufacturers and marketers wanted to boost sales to American couples having fewer kids, Paoletti said. She also reasoned that parents were rebelling against the more unisex fashions like corduroy pants they grew up with. But Paoletti said the change is harmful.

“It encourages very young

children - as young as 2 - to judge and interact with others in highly stereotyped ways,” she said. “We know, based on nearly 50 years of social science research, that stereotyped thinking hurts all of us, whether we are dealing with racial, gender, or any other form of stereotype.”

Macy’s says kids’ clothes are generally separated into boys’ and girls’ sections, but with an array of colors and styles in each. “A lot of kids’ apparel today is active—sweatpants and sweatshirts, graphic Ts, etc.—and are inherently unisex,” spokeswoman Holly Thomas said in an email.

Stores like J.C. Penney and Nordstrom say they listen to shoppers, but aren’t getting customer requests to blur the gender lines.

Those behind the new brands say they’re seeing the demand. Hartman said annual sales are pushing six-digit figures.

Higgins recalled that when her daughter was in day care, she came home crying because some boys made fun of her navy blue sneakers, calling them “boy shoes.” She often puts together kid outfits from thrift shops, and as she thumbs through the racks reminds her daughter: “There are no boy colors. There are no girl colors.”

Overdrive

By **ANDY MIKONIS**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When Honda pulled the Ridgeline midsize pickup from the market in 2014, it appeared the segment would go with it. Gone were the Ford Ranger, Dodge Dakota, Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon. Only the low-selling Nissan Frontier and Toyota Tacoma remained.

The Ridgeline is back for 2017 at a time when the midsize pickup segment is resurgent. Using the architecture of the car-based Pilot crossover, the redesigned Ridgeline has lost its unique styling, which was characterized by boxy fender flares and the “flying buttresses” behind the cab. The 2017 looks more like a Pilot than a pickup.

While car-based pickups might do well in other countries, they never really caught on here. The Ridgeline’s crossover utility vehicle roots give it the most interior cargo space with the rear seats folded, but it trades towing capability for crossover refinement.

The four-wheel-drive Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon pickups tow 2,000 pounds more than a similarly equipped V-6 all-wheel-drive Ridgeline. The Ridgeline gets only 1 mpg more than the Colorado.

RIDE

But the 3.5-liter was about the smoothest and quietest V-6 on and off the interstate, with ample power for passing on two-lane roads.

Suspension settings offer a very smooth ride without wallowing in corners, helped by torque vectoring all-wheel drive that changes the speed of individual wheels as needed. Substantial 18-inch tires looked appropriately trucklike and had the added benefit of being wide enough to offer some protection from curbing the painted and

Auto review: 2017 Honda Ridgeline is a midsize pickup in a crossover body

TNS
The 2017 Honda Ridgeline looks like the Honda Pilot but has the versatility of a clever bed tailor made for tailgating.



polished alloy wheels.

CARGO

Ridgeline doesn’t break any new ground over the previous iteration as far as the outdoor cargo area goes. The formula is pretty good, though. The best thing about it is the generous underfloor trunk. It’s well sealed, well lit, washable, lockable (with a key or the fob) and hidden within the bed floor. The Pilot has the spare outside under the vehicle, whereas the doughnut spare and jack are out of the weather in the hidden trunk of the Ridgeline.

Just like your favorite 1970s station wagons (and the first Ridgeline), the dual-action tailgate opens to the side for easier loading and access or it folds down like other pickup gates. The tester had a hitch receiver you can see in the rearview camera for solo hookups and a number of substantial tie-down cleats

to secure a load. Because the typical Ridgeline will see more play than work, top trim levels include a 110-volt power outlet and an in-bed audio feature that switches the music to hidden speakers for your tailgate party.

TECH

My tester was tech-heavy but registered a few misses in that department. Adaptive cruise control, which automatically brakes or accelerates to maintain a set distance between you and the vehicle ahead, is balky. About half the time the speed would indicate 1 mph slower than I set it. Even though you can adjust the following distance via a button on the steering wheel, I couldn’t make any sense of modulating it. Further, I constantly felt the sensation of forward inertia as though it were in a perpetual state of correcting by slowing down.

Lane-keeping assist will actually introduce some steering input if you start crossing a line

without your turn signal on. It made a few forgivable false alarms, but it kept indicating “steering input required” even though my (apparently too steady) hands were on the wheel. The forward collision warning gave me four false alarms on two-lane roads triggered by oncoming traffic.

Add it all together and like vehicles with similar systems, this Ridgeline will drive itself for you for a limited time, though that’s not exactly what it’s for.

What is it for? Other than charting the evolution of the driverless car, it’s apparently for people who text and drive. If you text and drive, please turn in your driver’s license immediately. If you don’t, you can turn most of it off. Better yet, save your money and choose another of seven trim levels.

I was disappointed to see Honda using Garmin navigation, my least favorite. Route

guidance is fine, but maps lack sufficient detail namely in street and road names. Do they expect you to punch in a destination every time? Don’t you just want to use it as a map sometimes? The worst thing is when you have it zoomed in or out, it automatically resets to a default setting at arbitrary times; I once asked a representative of a different automaker using Garmin if this could be overridden and was told it couldn’t and that this is a common complaint internally.

Being somewhat old-fashioned, I was happy to see Honda retained some hard buttons on the center stack, unlike some recent models. Environmental controls are reasonably intuitive with toggles for dual-zone temperature selection. I’m getting more used to the 8-inch touch-screen infotainment interface with its strip of controls on the left, though I still don’t like the bar-graph volume control and some

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Honda Ridgeline AWD RTL-E

- **As tested:** \$42,170
- **Base price:** \$29,475
- **EPA MPG:** 18 city, 25 highway
- **Engine:** 3.5-liter V-6
- **Transmission:** six-speed automatic
- **Parting shot:** Chop-top Pilot balances carlike manners and truck utility

functions are slow to react.

The graphics and fonts look crisp, and match nicely with the driver information display screen in the center of the gauges. However, the whole look of the instrument cluster is a bit haphazard with analog tachometer and temperature and fuel gauges on either side within sort of a dog bone shape. Floating above that is your speed in an LED font worthy of a 1970s Texas Instruments watch. I prefer digital speed displays but there were some indecipherable decisions made about the arrangement here.

Having owned several traditional pickups, I find it hard to grasp the intended Ridgeline buyer.

James Jenkins, a Honda public relations manager who was formerly on the Ridgeline product planning team, claimed the new Ridgeline “looks more like a truck” than the old one.

It has impeccable carlike driving dynamics, but many municipalities will still subject it to truck restrictions and fees. It has a respectable degree of truck functionality, but I don’t see typical truck buyers going for a front half that is a dead ringer for the Pilot. It sniffs of costs savings through parts sharing in an attempt to get a piece of the revived midsize truck pie.

UNDER THE HOOD:

What’s the deal with electric steering?

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I’m getting ready to buy a new car and am trying to sort out a few things that are new to me. One of them is electric steering. Can you explain what it is and if it’s something I’d want?

-Keith H.

A: For a number of reasons, electric power assisted steering, or EPS, has really caught on. Its main advantage over tried-and-true hydraulic steering systems is probably fuel

economy, which is generally about 1 mpg better in models with electric steering.

With such system, instead of the car’s engine continuously driving a hydraulic pump, an electric motor is used to reduce steering effort. Energy for this motor does come from the engine via the charging system, but the motor is only active a portion of the time the vehicle is driven. Ditching the power steering pump and hydraulic hoses can also save weight and bulk and reduce the chances of fluid leakage.

Depending on design, an EPS motor may be attached

to the steering column or the steering rack. A torque sensor relays driver rotational grunt to an electronic control module that also looks at a host of other sensors, resulting in a series of calculations that then drive the motor and provide steering assistance with the best response and feedback possible. Some early EPS systems were criticized for being numb and unresponsive, but more recent designs can better a hydraulic system in driver satisfaction. I get a chance to drive a handful of new cars each year and would be hard-pressed to say which had EPS

and which didn’t without peeking under the hood.

EPS makes a lot of sense as it also allows for features like lane-keeping, self-parking and autonomous driving. I’d have no concerns owning a car equipped with it.

Q: My son just bought a nice used car. Everything about it is great except its noisy belt. He’s tried using a belt lubricant and even replaced the belt, but the noise keeps coming back. How can he fix it?

-Leticia P.

A: There are two differing types of belt noise: chirping and squealing.

Chirping is a repetitive sound

usually caused by pulley misalignment or fluid contamination. Misalignment can be the result of a replacement alternator, power steering pump or idler pulley sitting slightly forward or rearward due to improper installation or wear. Contamination can be due to engine oil or power steering seal leakage, a coolant leak or the use of belt dressings, which aren’t a good idea at all.

Squeal is an occasional or continuous noise caused by belt slippage. High belt load due to air conditioner operation, sharp wheel turning or rapid acceleration can cause a belt that is generally quiet to briefly sound off. Improper belt adjustment

or a worn tensioner are likely causes, as is fluid contamination. A new belt may bring temporary relief until its softer fiber coating begins to wear away during break-in.

A check of pulley alignment and proper belt tension should provide the key to solving this. Hopefully your son didn’t apply a belt dressing to the new belt and it’s still good to go.

ABOUT THE WRITER

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Life & Style

'Star Trek Beyond' soars with \$59.6M at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Trek Beyond" has landed atop the weekend box office.

Paramount's latest outing with the Starship Enterprise soared to \$59.6 million in domestic ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday, knocking Universal's "The Secret Life of Pets" from the No. 1 spot.

"Pets" fell to second place, adding an additional \$29.3 million to its stellar \$260 million earnings over the past three weeks.

"Star Trek Beyond" is the third film in the rebooted franchise that kicked off with J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek." This latest film opened \$20 million behind that 2009 release, but experts say the returns are still promising for Paramount.

"This is a solid enough debut to tell them there's still enough interest in 'Star Trek' to keep this franchise alive," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker comScore.

"Star Trek Beyond" opened in line with industry expectations, he said, despite the unexpected death last month of 27-year-old actor Anton Yelchin, who played Chekov.

"The tragic passing of Anton Yelchin made it bittersweet for fans," Dergarabedian said. "I don't think that took away anything from the film. Fans can pay their respects to Yelchin by watching him on the screen."

"The Secret Life of Pets" and "Ghostbusters" bested—or tied—the weekend's other new releases.

Warner Bros.' low-budget horror "Lights Out" opened with \$21.6 million—more than quadrupling its reported \$5 million budget—to tie with



In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Zachary Quinto, left, and Karl Urban appear in a scene from "Star Trek Beyond."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Star Trek Beyond," \$59.6 million (\$30 million international).
2. "The Secret Life of Pets," \$29.3 million (\$10 million international).
3. (tie) "Lights Out," \$21.6 million (\$8.3 million international).
3. (tie) "Ghostbusters," \$21.6 million (\$10.5 million international).
4. "Ice Age: Collision Course," \$21 million (\$30 million international).
5. "Finding Dory," \$7.2 million (\$19.5 million international).
6. "The Legend of Tarzan," \$6.4 million (\$44.7 million international).

7. "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates," \$4.4 million (\$1 million international).
8. "Kabali (Tamil & Telugu)," \$4.1 million.
9. "Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party," \$3.7 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "The Legend of Tarzan," \$44.7 million.
2. "Skiptrace," \$40 million.
3. (tie) "Star Trek Beyond," \$30 million.
3. (tie) "Ice Age: Collision Course," \$30 million.
1. "Train to Busan," \$27.5 million.
2. "Finding Dory," \$19.5 million.
3. "Independence Day: Resurgence," \$12.2 million.
4. "Now You See Me 2," \$11.5 million.
5. "The BFG," \$11 million.
6. "Ghostbusters," \$10.5 million.

Hollywood stars hold climate rally ahead of DNC

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—More than 1,000 people joined Hollywood stars including Shailene Woodley, Susan Sarandon and Danny Glover in Philadelphia last night on the eve of the Democratic National Convention and vowed to keep fighting for climate and environmental justice issues, even though their preferred presidential candidate would not be driving the party's agenda.

Sarandon, who like the other stars in attendance campaigned on behalf of Sen. Bernie Sanders, said the rally's turnout was proof that theirs was a movement and not a cult of personality as some critics alleged.

"Our commitment hasn't ended. This is not just about

one election. ... We want real progressive politics and we want to say thank you to Bernie for igniting this spark," she said. "Now we're awake and we have to stay awake."

Many in the crowd, which one speaker described as a group of "climate justice activists, fracktivists and climate revolutionaries," wore Sanders shirts, buttons or lanyards. Some carried signs like, "Bernie would end fracking," and the now defunct "Bernie for President."

There was little mention of presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton with only one speaker making unfavorable comparisons between Sanders and Clinton while proudly noting that

"we took over the Democratic party." Another drew shouts and applause when he said a happy goodbye to Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who is resigning.

There was also little talk of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, although one speaker did refer to him as a fascist.

The event was organized by NextGen Climate, a San Francisco-based environmental advocacy organization. The event included musical acts and a screening of the documentary "How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change" by writer/director Josh Fox. Fox is best known

for "Gasland," which included memorable images of Pennsylvania homeowners setting tap water aflame.

Woodley urged the crowd to let go of anger and ego that could lead to violence.

"If you show up with love and solidarity to those around you, that sparks great change," she said.

Glover had a similar message, noting there was a long fight ahead.

"This is a permanent revolution," he said. "This is not about this election. That's too small. That's not enough for us."

The convention officially starts Monday, with Clinton expected to accept the party's nomination on Thursday.

"Ghostbusters" for third place.

Fox's animated "Ice Age: Collision Course" debuted with \$21 million. Fox Searchlight's "Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie" opened outside the top 10 with \$1.8 million.

The documentary "Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party," from conservative political pundit Dinesh D'Souza, edged into the top 10 in its second week with \$3.7 million.

"That's pretty amazing," Dergarabedian said. "But it's obviously due to the timing with the Republican National Convention last week and the Democratic National Convention this week."

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a

unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Teresa Palmer tapped into childhood fear for 'Lights Out'

NEW YORK (AP)—Teresa Palmer says she tapped into a part of herself that was scared of the dark as a child for her new horror movie, "Lights Out."

"I remember I had a touch-lamp next to my bed and I would tap it on the brightest light, and I remember my mom would always come in and she was like, 'That's too bright to sleep, we've got to put it on the dimmer one,' and I was like, 'OK, goodnight, mom.' And then (push the button) right back up to the bright one. I was just petrified."

In "Lights Out," now in theaters, Palmer plays a young woman who has distanced herself from her family because of trauma she experienced growing up, but is drawn back in when her younger brother begins to experience the same things she went through.

Palmer says playing out the emotional scenes sometimes took its physical toll on the set where she had migraines for three days.

One thing that's funny in retrospect, she says, is the woman who plays an evil spirit in the film is actually "the sweetest" in real life.

"I know her actually. She was my stunt double in 'I Am Number 4.' Her name's Alicia Vela-Bailey and she's this incredible stunt woman and a contortionist and she's very thin and lean and the way she can move her body was really abnormal. I've never seen anyone being able to move their body like that, so she just made it so scary, and then in the suit (costume), she'd be talking about her

wedding dress and she's so excited and in a few weeks she's getting married," she said with a laugh.

Palmer was also quick to bond with her young co-star, Gabriel Bateman, who plays her brother.

"I would always check with him and make sure, 'Are you doing OK? How are you feeling? Should we take a break?'"

The 30-year-old actress, who is expecting her second son with actor, writer, director Mark Webber later this year, says she's always had a connection with kids.

"I've always been so fond of children. I remember when I was 10, all my little friends were the 6-year-old little girls and boys at school that I'd take under my wing and take to the playground. I've always been very maternal in that sense but it's just been heightened now that I'm actually a mother."

After appearing in nine films since 2014, Palmer says she's planning a "year of no." When she resumes working, she looks forward to taking her children to the set.

"I have the luxury of being able to work and being a mama because Hollywood is really embracing working moms these days, so I can bring my son everywhere. He's traveled to every film set. I haven't spent a day away from him. Every day he's with me. It's nice you have so much downtime as an actor that you're in your trailer with your family, you go and shoot for a little bit and then you're back with your family again."

Sigourney Weaver hoping to reprise 'Alien' heroine Ripley

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Sigourney Weaver apparently isn't finished fighting aliens.

The original star of the "Alien" film franchise says she's hopeful about reprising her role as tough-as-nails survivor Ellen Ripley in another sequel.

Weaver told the Comic-Con crowd during a Saturday panel celebrating the 30th anniversary of the sci-fi sequel "Aliens" that "District 9" filmmaker Neill Blomkamp pitched her an idea for another installment when they were working together on his 2015 film "Chappie."

"Four months later, I got a script that was so amazing



AP
Sigourney Weaver, left, and Bill Paxton attend the "Aliens: 30th Anniversary" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 23, 2016, in San Diego.

and gives the fans everything they are looking for—plus innovates in a lot of ways," said Weaver.

The actress, who will soon begin production on filmmaker James Cameron's "Avatar" sequels, isn't sure when they would work on the project.

"Alien" director Ridley Scott is currently crafting a "Prometheus" sequel titled "Alien: Covenant."

"(Blomkamp) has work to do, and I have work to do," said Weaver. "I am hoping when we finish those jobs, we will circle back and start to do it."

Weaver last portrayed Ripley on screen in the 1997 sequel "Alien Resurrection," the fourth film in the series that ended with a clone of Ripley arriving on Earth. (The origi-

nal Ripley sacrificed herself at the conclusion of 1992's "Aliens 3.")

Weaver told 6,500 fans at San Diego Comic-Con International that she wasn't interested in an Earth-set sequel because she thought "Earth was boring."

Weaver was joined on the "Aliens" anniversary panel by director James Cameron, producer Gale Anne Hurd and co-stars Bill Paxton, Lance Henriksen, Paul Reiser, Michael Biehn and Carrie Henn.

'Walking Dead' offers glimpse of King Ezekiel at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—King Ezekiel and his pet tiger Shiva are coming to "The Walking Dead."

The dreadlocked character from the comics will be portrayed in the zombie drama's upcoming seventh season by actor Khary Payton. In the comics on which the hit AMC series is based, the character rules a formidable community known as the Kingdom.

King Ezekiel and Shiva were glimpsed in a trailer that debuted during the show's Friday panel at San Diego Comic-

Con International. "The Walking Dead" executive producer Scott M. Gimple noted he was younger and svelter than his comic book counterpart.

"We're going to see leaders with different styles and how they work—some benevolent and some not so benevolent," teased executive producer Gale Anne Hurd.

The panel kicked off Friday with actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan menacingly stalking behind several cast members with his villainous character Negan's barbed-wire bat. At

the end of last season, Negan infamously assassinated a character off screen. Their fate will be revealed in the season premiere.

"It's a really (expletive) start to the season, but hang on because we are heading to one of the greatest showdowns of the show," said "Walking Dead" actor Andrew Lincoln.

Lincoln was joined Friday by his "Walking Dead" co-stars Norman Reedus, Steven Yeun, Lauren Cohan, Chandler Riggs, Danai Gurira, Ross Marquand, Michael Cudlitz, Christian Serratos, Sonequa Martin-Green and Josh McDermitt. They each remained tight-lipped on who was on the other side of Lucille, the nickname of Negan's bat.

The seventh season of "The Walking Dead" will premiere Oct. 23.



AP
Norman Reedus, left, and Danai Gurira attend "The Walking Dead" panel on day 2 of Comic-Con International on Friday, July 22, 2016, in San Diego.

'Guardians of the Galaxy' tease sequel, Disneyland ride

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Next summer the "Guardians of the Galaxy" are taking over theaters and Disneyland.

Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige announced Saturday at Comic-Con that a Guardians of the Galaxy ride, Mission Breakout, is in the works. It will take over what is currently the Tower of Terror at Disneyland starting next summer in conjunction with the release of the sequel.

Stars Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, and Dave Bautista attended the annual fan convention with director James Gunn to tease new footage focusing heavily on the Baby Groot character in addition to a new trailer for the irrever-



AP
Director James Gunn, from left, Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana attend the "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 23, 2016, in San Diego.

ent space crew. The trailer confirmed Kurt Russell's previously hush-hush role: Star Lord's father.

Pratt, reprising his role as Star Lord, said the film picks up a few months after the first left off.

High Times: Lil Wayne cut short concert at California event

LOS ANGELES (AP)—High Times says it is "awaiting an explanation" from Lil Wayne's representatives after the rapper's performance at its Cannabis Cup event in Southern California.

The magazine says in a statement released Sunday that Wayne was "contractu-

ally committed to performing for an hour" at the Medical Cannabis Concentrates Cup on Saturday night, but left the stage after just four songs. The statement says the move was "in total disregard for his fans."

Wayne was billed as the headliner of the three-day

event in San Bernardino, California. The rapper promoted the event on his social media accounts last week.

A publicist for the entertainer didn't immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press on Sunday.

Counseling can't save marriage lacking intimacy

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for almost three years to a woman who refuses to share the same bed with me. It started on our honeymoon when, after having sex, she chose to sleep in a different bed whenever there were two beds in the room.

She's in her late 40s and had never been married before. We have been intimate only twice in the last year. Moreover, she doesn't let me sit next to her while we watch TV, and there is no kissing, no touching, no affection of any kind, physical or verbal.

I have wracked my brain trying to figure out why she treats me like this, and I have a few suspicions. She's applying for permanent residence status and may have married me only for that, although she denies it. She can no longer bear children, so she may think there is no point in having sex or being intimate. She may have an aversion to being touched, although she doesn't show that when we're out in public. She likes to hug her female friends. (And no, I don't think she's a lesbian.)

Any love that existed between us is nearly gone at this point, so am I justified in getting a separation? We have been to counseling, and that is what the therapist recommended.

FEELING UNLOVED IN UTAH

DEAR FEELING UNLOVED: Assuming you brush

your teeth, use deodorant and shower regularly, I'm as mystified about your wife's behavior as you are. I know people who treat their dogs and cats better than this woman has been treating you. That you have tolerated it this long is surprising.

Your therapist has advised a separation, but I would go further than that. Because you don't have a marriage, I think you should make it official.

DEAR ABBY: I receive at least two or three telemarketing calls a day—and sometimes even more on Sundays. Can you please tell me what to do to put a stop to this?

I have written once before to an address to curb this situation, but no luck. These calls come as late as 9 p.m. Thank you for any advice.

STRESSED OUT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR STRESSED OUT: I agree that telemarketing calls are invasive when they come in multiples. The U.S. gov Consumer Action Handbook includes a number you can call to restrict telemarketing calls permanently by registering your phone number. It is 888-382-1222. This can also be done online at www.donotcall.gov.

If you receive telemarketing calls after your number

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

has been in the national registry for 31 days, you can file a complaint using the same web page and toll-free number.

This will cut back on some of the calls you receive, but not all of them. Political organizations, charities and telephone surveyors with which you have a relationship can still get through. However, if you still find yourself being inundated, contact your phone provider and inquire about call-blocking 800 numbers. Good luck!

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

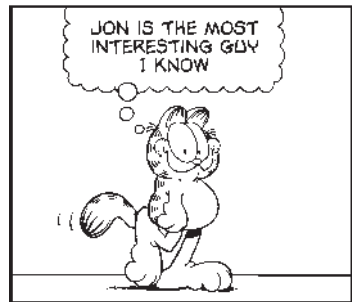
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

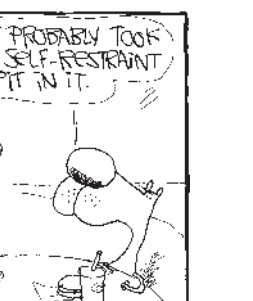
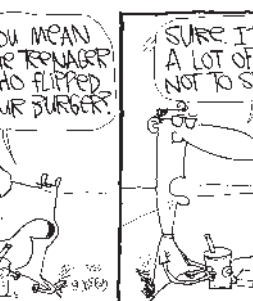
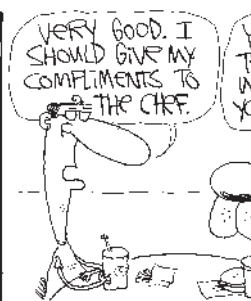
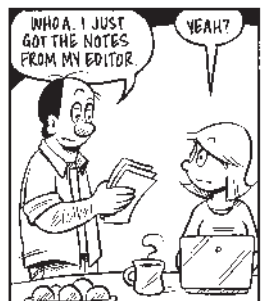


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Zounds!"
5 Airline to Tel Aviv
9 Cushion
12 Island near Java
13 Nitwit
14 Whatever amount
15 Scottish village in a Lerner and Loewe hit
17 SSW opposite
18 Mosque
19 Croc's kin
21 Police raids
24 Long tale
25 Some HDTVs
26 Hybrid fruits
30 Gore and Green
31 Gluck's "— ed Euridice"
32 Kimono closer
33 Pay heed
35 Thwart

DOWN

36 Bohemian
37 Mottled pony
38 Expenditure
40 Computer brand
42 Expert
43 Tatum
44 Oscar
48 First
49 Teen fave
50 Nullify
51 Tax form
52 Beanies
53 Bard
1 Recede
2 Needle-fish
3 "The Greatest"
4 Fingers and toes
5 Icelandic epic
6 Weaving frame
7 Commotion
8 In the distant past
9 Commedia dell'arte clown
10 Part of A.D.
11 Color worker
16 Mornings (Abbr.)
20 Get older
21 Unruly kid
22 Bruins' sch.
23 Saskatchewan city
24 Old dagger
26 Helen's home
27 Astern
28 Last
29 Missile shelter
31 Relevant
34 Work unit
35 Finalize, as plans
37 For each
38 Piece of work
39 Grecian vessels
40 Per person
41 Animation frames
44 Oklahoma city
45 Music's Yoko
46 Praise in verse
47 Forget-me —

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	P	S	O	C	A	D	Z	A	N	Y
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	I	D	C
M	I	N	T	T	E	A	S	N	E	A
B	O	N	U	S	R	U	N	E		
A	L	A	R		N	O	T	T	R	L
Y	E	T		B	O	D	E	S	G	R
G	E	T	T	H	I	S		G	L	B
J	U	F	I	S	T		I	I		
E	L	E	V		T	E	S	T	T	U
A	N	O	I		E	C	L	E	C	T
N	A	S	A		H	U	E		H	A

Yesterday's answer 7-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Piven, 51; Sandra Bullock, 52; Kevin Spacey, 57; Helen Mirren, 71.

Happy Birthday: If you want change, take charge and make it happen. When it comes to work, relationships and using your skills masterfully to reach your goals, you will be able to manipulate whatever situation you face. Personal improvements will build your confidence and partnerships will allow you more time to concentrate on what you know and do best. Romance is highlighted. Your numbers are 3, 6, 17, 21, 28, 35, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your intentions are good, so put your plans into motion. What you do to enforce a healthy environment at home or at work will also give you a better understanding of the people around you. Be a leader and a team player. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let aggression take over. Use your skills to master what needs to be done. You don't need everyone in your corner—you just need a good plan, detailed execution and the foresight and courage to continue. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A new relationship will blossom with someone special. Your charming way of dealing with people will open doors to interesting prospects. Gather information, ask questions, make adjustments and do things your way. Step into a leadership position. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take your time and ease into whatever you want to accomplish. Overseeing every detail will

help you avoid frustration and bring the results you are looking for. Unleash your creativity, use your imagination and see what happens. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get onboard and make a difference. Your active approach to life will ensure good results. Physical and mental challenges will get your heart pumping and your adrenaline flowing. Your enthusiasm will capture the attention of others. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work behind the scenes and you will avoid interference. An open mind and determined spirit will help you expand your interests and bring your ideas and plans to fruition. Don't give in to false advertising, bragging or following others. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got what it takes. Step outside your comfort zone and make a big splash. Show off what you have to offer and let your talents take center stage. It's time to push your skills, knowledge and desire to advance. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep a low profile and work on projects that you can do alone. The less interference you face, the easier it will be to achieve your goals. Emotions will surface if you deal with people who don't share your beliefs. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Create your own excitement and adventure. Avoid anyone who tries to push you in a direction you don't wish to take. Walk away from temptation and toward positive and healthy choices. Romance will bring you closer to someone special. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't count on anyone but yourself when it comes to getting things done. Your ability to make good decisions and bring about change will ensure a happier and more fruitful lifestyle. You will be the go-to person in your circle of friends. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Question anything that doesn't seem clear. Pick and choose what will bring the best results for you and the people you love. Your determination and discipline will pay off. A partnership will help you achieve your goals faster. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let uncertainty or someone's demands stand in your way. Set the pace and follow through with your plans. At the end of the day, it's what you have managed to accomplish that will count. Live your dream. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, quick-witted and entertaining. You are competitive and proactive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2		3		8	4	6		5
					1			
		9				4		
1	7			9				
6								3
				7			8	6
		1				5		
			6					
5		2	7	4		9		8

Difficulty Level ★★

7/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	8	4	5	6	7	3	1
5	3	7	9	1	2	8	4	6
6	1	4	3	7	8	5	2	9
8	4	5	2	3	1	6	9	7
9	2	1	6	8	7	4	5	3
3	7	6	5	4	9	1	8	2
4	5	2	1	6	3	9	7	8
1	8	3	7	9	5	2	6	4
7	6	9	8	2	4	3	1	5

Difficulty Level: ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GARGOYLES

Solution: 8 letters

S F M E R M A I D S L A T E M
E L E N O T S R S R E P P O C
D O M R E D I G S T R O U G H
I W T I C B N E N F A T L E A
S A R E M I H C A I H T L G R
R T S S V V H C K S F A U D P
S E L R I S E T E C S F B E I
G R A O E S P S O E E F I L E
N C R H W E S O L G O N E R S
I R D C R E A T U R E G L I G
D E E R R S G M T E Y T M N
L T H T A A E L N S A N A I
I T T A C I D F D E D L I G Y
U U A O Y R N O S A M C A E L
B G C G R O T E S Q U E P S F

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Bird, Buildings, Bull, Butterflies, Carving, Castles, Cathedrals, Chimeras, Clay, Copper, Creature, Drain, Eagle, Faces, Flying, Formed, Gilded, Goat, Gothic, Griffin, Grotesque, Gutter, Harpies, Horse, Images, Ledge, Legend, Masonry, Mermaids, Metals, Mortar, Mouth, Neck, Paint, Roof, Sides, Snake, Spouts, Statue, Stone, Trough, View, Water, Wolf

Yesterday's Answer: Finish Line
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
HENRY O. OGO, Defendant

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-436

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 345 R 321, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 950 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat no. 345 R 07 dated July 1, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 5, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 30th day of June, 2016:

/S/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

WHATZIT Solution: Top marks

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has openings for:

One (1) Sales and Marketing Representative

Minimum qualifications: Associate's degree or completion of two year vocational program (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience in job offered, as a sales representative or marketing representative.

Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests product that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Assists Sales Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

One (1) Bookkeeper

Minimum qualifications: Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (any major) (degree may be foreign educational equivalent) and two years experience as bookkeeper.

Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payables, accounts receivables, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipt tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transaction prior to settlement. Maintains and reconciles bank accounts.

One (1) Product Demonstrator

Minimum qualification: One year experience as a product demonstrator.

Duties: Demonstrates and explains products to persuade customers to purchase products. Sets up and arranges displays or demonstration areas to attract the attention of prospective customers. Transports, assembles, and disassembles materials used in presentations. Prepares or alters presentation contents to target specific audiences. Cooks products and gives samples to customers. Provides product information and suggests specific product purchases to meet customers' needs. Sells products being promoted and keeps records of sales. Restocks store shelves to replenish products sold following product merchandising procedures. Contacts salesperson to replenish merchandise and follows up on deliveries. Performs other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to bello.lumintegar@yahoo.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

Pacific Historic Parks is seeking a skilled educator to develop and lead education programs with the National Park Service on Saipan.

- Teaching credentials, program management and curriculum development skills are desired.
- The right candidate should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills and be positive, energetic and creative.
- Salary depends on qualifications.
- Excellent benefit package is offered.

Please email resume and cover letter to jbalajadia@pacifichistoricparks.org. Position closes at 5:00 p.m. on August 5, 2016. EEO

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IOC leaders stop short of complete ban on Russians from Rio

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—Rejecting calls by anti-doping officials for a complete ban on Russia, Olympic leaders on Sunday gave individual sports federations the task of deciding which athletes should be cleared to compete in next month's Rio de Janeiro Games.

Citing the need to protect the rights of individual athletes, the International Olympic Committee decided against taking the unprecedented step of excluding Russia's entire team over allegations of state-sponsored doping. Instead, the IOC left it to 27 international sports federations to make the call on a case-by-case basis.

"Every human being is entitled to individual justice," IOC President Thomas Bach said after the ruling of his 15-member executive board.

Bach said the IOC had decided instead on a set of "very tough criteria" that could dent Russia's overall contingent and medal hopes in Rio, where the Olympics will open on Aug. 5.

Under the measures, no Russian athletes who have ever had a doping violation will be allowed into the games, whether or not they have served a sanction, a rule that has not applied to athletes in other countries.

In addition, the international sports federations were ordered to check each Russian athlete's drug-testing record, with only doping controls conducted outside Russia counting toward eligibility, before



AP
Russia's Timofey Chaly, center, runs his 400 meters hurdles at a Russian Athletics Cup, at Zhukovsky, outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday, July 21, 2016. Russia lost its appeal Thursday against the Olympic ban on its track and field athletes, and Chaly says bans for individual dopers are fair, but not the exclusion of a whole team.

authorizing them to compete. Final entry is contingent on approval from an independent sports arbitrator.

The IOC decision was sharply criticized by anti-doping bodies as a sellout that undermines clean athletes and destroys the idea of a level playing field.

World Anti-Doping Agency President Craig Reedie said the organization is "disappointed that the IOC did not heed WADA's executive committee recommendations" after investigators "exposed, beyond a reasonable

doubt, a state-run doping program in Russia that seriously undermines the principles of clean sport."

Joseph de Pencier, chief executive of the 59-member Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations, said the IOC "failed to confront forcefully the findings of evidence of state-sponsored doping in Russia corrupting the Russian sport system," describing it as "a sad day for clean sport."

U.S. Anti-Doping Agency CEO Travis Tygart said the "IOC has refused to take decisive leadership" in a most

important moment for the integrity of the Olympic Games and clean athletes.

"The decision regarding Russian participation and the confusing mess left in its wake is a significant blow to the rights of clean athletes," Tygart said.

Russia's track and field athletes were already banned by the IAAF, the sport's governing body, in a decision that was upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The IOC accepted that ruling, but would not extend it to other sports.

Russia's current overall team consists of 387 athletes, a number likely to be significantly reduced by the measure barring Russians who have previously served doping bans.

Calls for a complete ban on Russia intensified after Richard McLaren, a Canadian lawyer commissioned by WADA, issued a report accusing Russia's sports ministry of overseeing a vast doping program of its Olympic athletes.

McLaren's investigation, based heavily on evidence from former Moscow doping lab director Grigory Rodchenkov, affirmed allegations of brazen manipulation of Russian urine samples at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, but also found that state-backed doping had involved 28 summer and winter sports from 2011 to 2015.

"An athlete should not suffer and should not be sanctioned for a system in which he was not implicated," Bach told reporters after Sunday's meeting, acknowledging the decision "might not please everybody."

"This is not about expectations," he said. "This is about doing justice to clean athletes all over the world."

Asked whether the IOC was being soft on Russia, Bach said: "Read the decision. ... You can see how high we set the bar. This is not the end of the story but a preliminary decision that concerns Rio 2016."

Tygart, however, questioned why the IOC "would pass the baton to sports federations who may lack the adequate expertise or collective will to appropriately address the situation within the short window prior to the games."

The IOC also rejected the application by Russian whistleblower Yulia Stepanova, an 800-meter runner and former doper who helped expose the doping scandal, to compete under a neutral flag at the games. Stepanova, now living in the United States, competed as an individual athlete at last month's European Championships in Amsterdam.

But the IOC said Stepanova did not meet the criteria for running under the IOC flag and, because she had been previously banned for doping, did not satisfy the "ethical requirements" to compete in the games. The IOC said it planned to invite Stepanova and her husband, Vitaly Stepanov, a former Russian anti-doping official who also turned whistleblower, to attend the games.

Tygart expressed dismay at the decision to bar Stepanova, describing it as "incomprehensible" and saying it "will undoubtedly deter whistle-

blowers in the future from coming forward."

That means only one Russian track and field athlete is eligible to compete in Rio: U.S.-based long jumper Darya Klishina was granted exceptional eligibility by the IAAF because she has been tested outside of Russia.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said "the majority" of Russia's team complies with the IOC criteria, and estimated "80 percent" of the team regularly undergoes international testing of the kind specified by the IOC.

International federations will have only days to process the Russian cases. Many are still waiting for information from McLaren's report.

The International Tennis Federation has already said Russia's eight-member team meets the IOC requirements as the players have been through regular international testing.

Sunday's measures are still a blow to Russia, which finished third in total medals at the 2012 Olympics.

The team could be without some of its star names in Rio because of the IOC measure barring any Russians who have previously served doping bans. However, the impact on the medal tally is likely to be less severe than the damage caused by the earlier ban on its track team, Russia's most successful contingent in London four years ago.

Among those set to be ruled out are world champion swimmer Yulia Efimova; 2012 Olympic silver medal-winning weightlifter Tatyana Kashirina; and two-time Olympic bronze medal-winning cyclist Olga Zabelinskaya. All three have previously served doping bans.

Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov presented his case to the IOC board, promising full cooperation with investigations and guaranteeing "a complete and comprehensive restructuring of the Russian anti-doping system."

He issued a strong plea against a full ban.

"My question is this: If you treat the cancer by cutting off the patient's head and killing him, do you consider this as a victory in the fight?" he said in remarks released later. "That does not seem like a victory to me."

Last major of the year in no time at all

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. (AP)—Jordan Spieth hit the reset button after the U.S. Open, a prudent decision to keep from looking in the rear-view mirror.

Gone was the burden of trying to repeat 2015 by winning the Masters and U.S. Open in the same year. This was all about looking ahead at two more majors, not so much to salvage the year but the chance to make it another great one. And now, even that is about to end.

Golf, known for its deliberate pace, is on warp speed this year.

"I had said after the U.S. Open it felt like now the second half is starting," Spieth said. "And all of a sudden, you know, that's the end of the majors for the year."

Blame it on Rio.

Golf is back in the Olympics for the first time since 1904, a dozen years before the PGA Championship was held for the first time. To make room on the schedule, the PGA Championship

agreed to move up to the final weekend of July ahead of the Rio Games.

That left 11 days between the end of one major and the start of another. From a claret jug to the Wanamaker Trophy with barely enough time to breathe.

"That's pretty mad," Graeme McDowell said with a slight grin as he shook his head. "An unusual summer."

Ready or not, the final major starts Thursday at Baltusrol Golf Club.

This will be the ninth major at Baltusrol, which includes the U.S. Open seven times. Phil Mickelson won at Baltusrol in the 2005 PGA Championship, making birdie on the final hole to claim at the time was his second major.

The PGA Championship has the strongest field of all the majors, and it really stands out in an Olympic year. No one is skipping Baltusrol except for injury, while the Olympics will

have only eight of the top 25 in the world.

As for the timing?

The PGA Championship, before it settled into a traditional August date in 1969, used to be all over the calendar. Jack Nicklaus won the 1971 PGA Championship in February when it was held at PGA National in Florida. The PGA was held in December 1929 at Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles. Over the years, it has been played in every month except for January, March and April.

What doesn't change about the 98th edition of the PGA Championship are the stakes. For years, the slogan of the final major was "Glory's Last Shot," and that still applies. This is one last chance for players to reshape their outlook on the year, to turn a good season into a great one.

That starts with Spieth, defending champion Jason Day and Rory McIlroy.



Porcello still unbeaten at Fenway, Red Sox nip Twins



BOSTON

(AP)—A year ago, Rick Porcello was hearing nearly as many boos as cheers in Fenway Park.

Now, he's piling up wins in front of the home fans.

Porcello became the first Boston pitcher in 55 years to open a season 10-0 in Fenway, and Hanley Ramirez and Travis Shaw both hit a three-run homer as the Red Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 8-7 Sunday to earn a split of a four-game series.

"I just feel good here," Porcello said. "I feel comfortable pitching in front of our crowd."

Last year, the 27-year-old Porcello was expected to be an ace for the staff after the club acquired him from Detroit before the season, but he lost six of his first 11 starts at home and ended the year just 9-15 overall with a 4.92 ERA.

"Rick is in a very good place here in Fenway," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "You talk about dependable and reliable, he embodies that. He epitomizes that."

Porcello (13-2) allowed five runs with eight strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings, becoming the first since Don Schwall in 1961 to win his first 10 Fenway decisions in a season.

Dustin Pedroia hit a tie-breaking solo homer and Xander Bogaerts had three singles for Boston, which won its 10th time in 13 games.

Juan Centeno had three hits and drove in three runs for the Twins, who completed a seven-game road trip 4-3 but gave up four unearned runs in a key inning.

"You've got a chance to come in here and potentially beat a team that's been playing good—three out of four," Minnesota manager Paul Molitor said. "Unearned runs, they're painful, they're tough when you can't find a way to get off the field."

White Sox 5, Tigers 4

In Chicago, Melky Cabrera drove in Adam Eaton with a game-ending single in the ninth inning after closer David Robertson gave up three home runs in the top half to lead the Chicago White Sox to a victory over the Detroit Tigers hours after they suspended ace Chris Sale for five days on Sunday.

The White Sox beat the Tigers 4-3 earlier in the day on a single by Eaton in the ninth after play was suspended because of rain the previous night.

Rangers 2, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Delino DeShields homered in the sev-

enth to break a tie for Texas.

DeShields, who was recalled Thursday from Triple-A Round Rock, walked and doubled before leading off the seventh with his third home run.

The loss dropped the Royals to 48-49, the first time the World Series champions have been below .500 since May 15 when they were 18-19.

Padres 10, Nationals 6

In Washington, Alex Dickerson and Ryan Schimpf hit back-to-back homers off Shawn Kelley in the eighth inning and San Diego scored four runs off Jonathan Papelbon in the ninth to beat Washington.

Ryan Buchter (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth to earn the victory.

Orioles 5, Indians 3

In Baltimore, Pinch-hitter Nolan Reimold hit a game-winning, two-out homer in the ninth inning after Pedro Alvarez reached on a strikeout, and Baltimore completed a three-game sweep.

Cody Allen (2-4) began the ninth by striking out Alvarez, but the ball eluded catcher Roberto Perez. After fielding the bouncing ball off the backstop, Perez hit Alvarez in the helmet with the throw for an error.

Dodgers 9, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, Adrian Gonzalez hit a grand slam and Howie Kendrick added a two-run homer, helping Los Angeles spoil Mike Mayers' major league debut.

Scott Kazmir (9-3) pitched five innings to earn the victory. He allowed three runs on six hits.

Yankees 5, Giants 2

In New York, Nathan Eovaldi pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, Carlos Beltran and Mark Teixeira hit early solo home runs and New York completed a 6-4 homestand that likely was too little and too late to keep management from selling off players ahead of the Aug. 1 trade deadline.

Cubs 6, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Anthony Rizzo hit a three-run double in the seventh inning and Joe Nathan got the win in his first game in the majors since April 2015.

Nathan was activated off the 60-day disabled list earlier in the day, completing his comeback from Tommy John surgery.

Mets 3, Marlins 0

In Miami, Steven Matz pitched six innings for his first win since May, and New York



took the rubber game of a series against Miami.

Matz (8-6) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out six. Pitching despite a bone spur in his elbow, he had been 0-5 in his past nine starts with an ERA of 4.73.

Blue Jays 2, Mariners 0

In Toronto, J.A. Happ and

three relievers combined on a one-hitter, Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo home run and Toronto avoided a three-game sweep.

Happ (13-3) won his eighth straight decision and set a career-high for victories. The left-hander allowed Seattle's lone hit, a single by Leonys Martin in the third.

Athletics 3, Rays 2

In Oakland, Billy Butler hit a tiebreaking home run off Erasmo Ramirez with one out in the eighth inning and Oakland held on.

Oakland won the previous two games on walkoff hits and led 2-0 until Logan Forsythe's tying two-run homer in the top of the eighth.

Boston Red Sox's Rick Porcello pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Boston, Sunday, July 24, 2016.

Pirates 5, Phillies 4

In Pittsburgh, Adam Frazier's pinch-hit home run in the seventh inning powered Pittsburgh over Philadelphia.

Frazier's home run was his first in the majors. It was given up by fellow rookie Edubray Ramos, who took his first career loss to fall to 1-1.

Astros 13, Angels 3

In Houston, Jose Altuve hit two of Houston's season-high five homers and had a career-high six RBI to help complete a three-game sweep.

There were runners at first and second with no outs in the first when Altuve connected off Tim Lincecum (2-4).

Rockies 7, Braves 2

In Denver, Trevor Story lined his fourth homer in three games, Tyler Chatwood allowed one hit over five erratic innings and Colorado swept Atlanta.

Story launched a two-run shot in the fourth a day after breaking the NL rookie record for most homers by a shortstop.

Diamondbacks 9, Reds 8

In Cincinnati, Paul Goldschmidt's solo home run in the fifth inning gave Arizona the lead for good, and the Diamondbacks finished with four homers.

Yasmany Tomas chipped in a pair of solo home runs and Wellington Castillo had a three-run shot.

Griffey Jr., Piazza inducted into Hall of Fame

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y.

(AP)—Two players who began their careers at opposite ends of the spectrum nearly three decades ago ended up in the same place on Sunday—with their names etched on plaques at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

For Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza, the culmination of their long journeys was tinged with tears all around.

"I stand up here humbled and overwhelmed," Griffey said, staring out at his family and tens of thousands of fans. "I can't describe how it feels."

The two became a piece of history on their special day. Griffey, the first pick of the 1987 amateur draft, became the highest pick ever inducted. Piazza, a 62nd-round pick the next year —No. 1,390— is the lowest pick to enter the Hall of Fame.

Griffey played 22 big-

league seasons with the Mariners, Reds and White Sox and was selected on a record 99.32 percent of ballots cast, an affirmation of sorts for his clean performance during baseball's so-called Steroids Era.

A 13-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove Award winner in center field, Griffey hit 630 home runs, sixth all-time, and drove in 1,836 runs. He also was the American League MVP in 1997, drove in at least 100 runs in eight seasons, and won seven Silver Slugger Awards.

Griffey, who fell just three votes shy of being the first unanimous selection, hit 417 of his 630 homers and won all 10 of his Gold Gloves with the Seattle Mariners. He played the first 11 seasons of his career with the Mariners and led them to the playoffs

for the first two times in franchise history.

"Thirteen years with the Seattle Mariners, from the day I got drafted, Seattle, Washington, has been a big part of my life," Griffey said, punctuating the end of his speech by putting a baseball cap on backward as he did throughout his career.

"I'm going to leave you with one thing.

In 22 years I learned that one team will treat you the best, and that's your first team. I'm damn proud to be a Seattle Mariner."

Dubbed "The Natural" for his effortless excellence at the plate and in center field, Griffey avoided the Hall of Fame until his special weekend because he wanted his first walk through the front doors of the stately building on Main Street to

be with his kids, whom he singled out one by one in his 20-minute speech.

"There are two misconceptions about me - I didn't work hard and everything I did I made look easy," Griffey said. "Just because I made it look easy doesn't mean that it was. You don't become a Hall of Famer by not working, but working day in and day out."

Griffey's mom, Birdie, and his father, former Cincinnati Reds star Ken Sr., both cancer survivors and integral to his rise to stardom, were front and center in the first row.

"To my dad, who taught me how to play this game and to my mom, the strongest woman I know," Junior said. "To have to be mom and dad, she was our biggest fan and our biggest critic. She's the only woman I know that lives in one house and runs five others."



Durant leads US to second exhibition rout over China

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just two games into the U.S. basketball team's pre-Olympic tour, coach Mike Krzyzewski already sees the start of something big.

Kevin Durant scored 19 points, Klay Thompson added 17 and the Americans rolled to a second straight blowout exhibition victory, 106-57 over China on Sunday night.

DeMar DeRozan scored 13 points in his hometown, and DeMarcus Cousins had 12 points and seven rebounds in the second stop on the five-city tour leading the Americans to Rio de Janeiro. The victory over an overmatched opponent was impressive, but Krzyzewski liked it more for the composed, cohesive manner in which the new teammates worked together.

"We should have won, but the way we won was excellent," Krzyzewski said. "We're really growing together as a group."

After opening their showcase tour by trouncing Argentina in Las Vegas on Friday night, the U.S. team posted another rout at a packed Staples Center. Krzyzewski is finding it difficult to disguise



his early optimism, praising his team's work in their brief practice time together.

And while they're still learning their teammates' tendencies and solidifying player rotations, the U.S. team looked remarkably

connected for long stretches against China, which has no current NBA players.

Durant noticed it, as did Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan, who kicked off the festivities by blocking a shot on China's

first possession and throwing down an alley-oop dunk on the Americans' first possession.

"We've only been together a week, but it seems like we've been teammates for years," Jordan said.

Jordan scored 12 points and led a strong defensive

U.S. guard Kevin Durant takes the ball away from Argentina guard Nicolas Laprovittola, bottom left, as they go to the court during an exhibition basketball game Friday, July 22, 2016, in Las Vegas. The United States won, 111-74.

effort with three blocks for the Americans, who held the Chinese to 30.9 percent shooting. Krzyzewski believes the American team will excel at defensive switching because of its abundance of versatile players.

"I think we're learning more about one another, and

our defense was there pretty much the whole game," Krzyzewski said.

The Americans haven't lost a game since the 2006 world championships, winning 65 straight games. They're 47-1 in exhibitions since NBA stars took over the roster in 1992, going undefeated since 2004.

While LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Kawhi Leonard all declined the chance to play in Rio, the Americans who accepted the opportunity appear to be serious about winning without some of the nation's top stars.

BREWERS

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The Falcons will advance to the Final Four if Titanium (7-6) will drop its game against the Yankees tomorrow. If Titanium prevails and the BSI Aces bow to the Bears tonight there could be a three-way tie for the last two playoff tickets.

League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said the deadlock will be broken via head-to-head matches and the team that will come out on top will take the No. 3 spot, while the bottom two will fight for the last Final Four seat.

The Brewers avoided complications going into the playoff round after slipping past the Falcons in their penultimate game in the double-round robin elimination. Ton Tenorio scored the go-ahead run at the top of the ninth off a Falcons error, while Nokki Saralu made the insurance also off their foes' defensive miscue.

The Falcons, who forced a standoff, 5-5, after a three-run bottom of the seventh inning, missed a chance to steal the win from the Brewers at the bottom of the ninth after com-

mitting two quick outs. J.J. Lifofoi then kept the Falcons' hopes alive when he moved to first off a fielder's choice, but was later stranded after Ian Norita flied out to second to end the match in favor of the Brewers.

After the tough loss, the Falcons regrouped and eased past North Starz.

The Falcons started strong, scoring 12 runs in the first three innings en route to the early win. They capitalized on North Starz' booboos at the top of the first to collect seven runs. The Falcons then added five more—four were earned—to build a double-digit spread 12-2.

The Doru Camacho-managed Falcons slowed down in the last five innings, but still kept their safe distance, as they yielded no more than one run to North Starz in each of the five innings the latter scored.

Cameron Towai led the Falcons with his five runs and added two RBIs off his 2-for-3 performance at the plate. A.J. Evangelista hit 3-for-6 and tallied three RBIs and two runs. Norita had only one run, but made two RBIs after going 3-for-4 at bat.

Boos to cheers: KD heads home to Oakland

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even in a jersey with "USA" on the chest, Kevin Durant got some boos at Staples Center on Sunday night.

He'll probably need to get used to that sound in this building for the rest of his basketball career.

When he suits up in Oakland on Tuesday for the first time since joining the Golden State Warriors, he'll get another reception entirely.

But no hate or love from the stands is going to deter Durant from trying to win a gold medal or an NBA title.

"The crowd here tonight was great, so hopefully it's just as good at Oracle," Durant said after scoring 19 points at a packed Staples

Center during the Americans' 106-57 victory over China in the second stop of a five-game pre-Olympics showcase.

When told he had been booed in pregame introductions, Durant seemed surprised: "No, I didn't hear it. I did? Huh. I didn't hear it."

The Los Angeles fans were gathered to cheer for the Americans during an exhibition blowout, but some of them couldn't resist jabbing at the newest member of the Warriors and his two-team teammate, Draymond Green. The Clippers fans in the crowd supported the red, white and blue—but those colors represent something else to them for most of the

year, and they let their new nemesis know it.

Golden State general manager Bob Myers was in attendance to see his newest signing's performance alongside Green and Klay Thompson, who scored 17 points in another impressive exhibition victory for the gold medal favorites.

Myers was surprised by the boos, but only to a point.

"I think it's Clipper fans, because they cheered DeAndre (Jordan)," Myers said. "That's just my guess."

The Clippers have a fierce rivalry with the Warriors, but it seems increasingly likely Durant will be a magnet for boos throughout the league after spurning Oklahoma City to chase a championship with

Stephen Curry in Oakland.

He'll return to his new home in the East Bay for what's likely to be a less hostile reception before the Americans' next exhibition, also against China.

"He won't get booed on Tuesday," Myers said dryly.

Durant isn't taking anything for granted. He is just beginning to grasp the enormity of his move in the eyes of fans and opponents. The gifted scorer and former MVP has been widely popular around the game for most of his career, but his decision this month has made him a target of jealousy, frustration and even derision - and not even a Team USA jersey can deflect it.

CNMI

From Page 28

the team manager.

After their debut game against Guam, the CNMI Junior Nationals will also play in the curtain-raiser today at 11am against Yap. Only one match is scheduled in the morning, as the Palau versus Guam tiff will take place at 6pm and the Belau (the host's other team) and Yap duel will be held at 8pm.

The round-robin elimination will continue this Wednesday and Thursday with the CNMI this time challenging Belau

at 11am tomorrow. In the Wednesday evening match, the pairings are Guam against Yap and Belau versus Palau. Then on Thursday, the CNMI will close out its elimination round assignment against Palau at 8pm, while Guam will have its last game over Belau at 6pm.

Only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin preliminary round will advance to the playoffs, which will be played this Friday. In the Final Four, the pairings are 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3 with the winners advancing to the gold medal game this Saturday at 6pm. The losers will battle for the third place

honors in the 4pm consolation match.

Summer, masters leagues next month

Meanwhile, the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation will be holding two leagues, starting next month.

The association will first have the Inaugural Men's Summer League at the San Antonio court. The league is hoping to kick off on Aug. 15 and will have two divisions: Open and 40-and-above age group. Only the first 10 teams to register and complete the league requirements will be

allowed to compete.

Entry fee is only \$400 and contact person is Boy Garcia (989-6386).

Up next is the masters league for players in the 50-and-above division and matches will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Representatives of interested teams are asked to attend a meeting on Aug. 4 at 6pm at the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill to discuss important details of the league. For more information, contact Basa at 989-6386 or via email at pba-sa03@gmail.com. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**

HERAS

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Misaki Kobayashi and Singapore's Maxine Ng, 5-7, 2-6. In the same Oceania contest, Heras gave Australia's Luciana Kunkel quite a scare before dropping a three-set match, 6-3, 1-6, 3-6.

"The tournaments I played in the past two months gave me a great experience because I learned so many useful strategies that I can apply to my style of play in my next games," Heras said.

The Commonwealth junior netter is also elated to make it to the ITF Juniors world ranking. He shared the No. 2,200 spot in the world with Tan after they made it to the quarterfinals of the Grade 5 tournament in Noumea in May and got five ranking points.

"I am so happy to finally have an ITF ranking. This is

a big accomplishment for me because I have been playing tennis since I was young and I've been working really hard to get to where I am today," said Heras, who began her bid for the ITF Juniors ranking points this year when she joined the Saipan-hosted IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

"Overall, I am really happy that I received this summer scholarship in Fiji. It has helped my tennis game rise to a new level, and I can't wait to see what tennis has to offer me in the future," she added.

Heras will stay in Fiji until next month as she will be playing in one more ITF Juniors tournament and in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships as part of the North Pacific Team. Fourteen other CNMI players will join Heras, Tan, and Lee on the elite squad.

5th Genesis Cup Basketball League Youth Division

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



An Ezra player pulls up for a shot during their game against Nahum defenders in the 5th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Nahum's Haoyu Chen goes up for a one-hander during their game against Jonah.



Nahum's Chris Sacdalan goes up for a fallaway jumper in front of Hagai defenders.



A Nahum player tries to dribble away from two Hagai defenders.



Joel's Josiah Trinidad collides with Jonah's Joshua Cabrera on his way for a shot.



A Hagai player beats Nahum's Haoyu Chen for the rebound.



Nahum and Jonah players pose with league commissioner Noel Puno before their match.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ezra and Joel players gather for a group photo before their game.



IOC leaders stop
short of complete
ban on Russians
from Rio

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Porcello still
unbeaten at
Fenway, Red
Sox nip Twins

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016

Heras toughs it out in Fiji

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Isabel Heras, seen here making a baseline return against Ami Tsukagoshi during their game in the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts, is training in Fiji after receiving a summer scholarship from the International Tennis Federation and Oceania Tennis Federation.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Isabel Heras is living through the Pacific Oceania Touring Team's rigorous training sessions in Fiji.

Heras, one of the three CNMI players who were awarded the ITF/OTF Pacific Training Centre-Summer Scholarship (Tania Tan and Carol Lee were the two others), admitted to facing difficulties in the early goings of their training at the Lautoka facility, but has survived the odds for more than two months.

"The training here is challenging. I remember in the first week here, my body was so sore from the six hours of training every day. Now, I am more used to the hectic tennis schedule and waking up early for the 6am morning fitness," said Heras in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Sunday.

Besides the regular training sessions, part of the program is Heras and company's participation in ITF Juniors ranking tournaments in Fiji and New Caledonia. In May and June, Heras joined one competition in New Caledonia and two in

have very close matches with some of my opponents winning by just two points," the 15-year-old player said.

In the Open Junior BNP PARIBAS de Nouvelle-Caledonie in New Caledonia, Heras went through three sets in her opening singles match before bowing to Japan's Hiromi Sekiguchi, 1-6, 6-3, 0-6. In the doubles event in the South Pacific Open Junior Cham-

pionships, she and the U.S. Bryn Johnson forced a super-tiebreaker third set against New Zealand's

Ivy McLean and Holly Stewart before losing, 7-5, 2-6, 8-10. The CNMI bet also partnered with Johnson in the Oceania Open Junior Championships and they fought hard in the first set before yielding to Japan's

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Brewers get No. 2 seeding; Falcons boost playoff bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Defending champions GSM Brewers took the No. 2 spot in the Final Four of the 2016 Saipan Baseball League, while the Falcons remained in playoff contention as two make-up matches were played last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers outclassed the Falcons, 7-5, in last Thursday's lone game, while the latter recovered quickly

with a 17-5 rout of North Starz last Friday. The Brewers improved their record to 10-3 and are assured of the second-ranking in the playoffs behind No. 1 seed Chalan Kanoa Bears (13-0) regardless of the results of the defending champions' final regular season match against the Yankees (4-8) last night.

The Falcons, on the other hand, ended up with an 8-6 slate and must wait for the results of the two remaining matches in the elimination to determine their fate.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The GSM Brewers' Vince Cepeda, left, practices pitching, while his teammates look on before their game in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Junior National players and officials pose for a photo at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport before leaving for Palau last Thursday to compete in the 2016 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament.

CNMI vs Guam in MBT opener

The CNMI Junior Nationals were scheduled to play their first game in the 2016 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Palau National Gymnasium in Koror.

The Commonwealth bet faced Guam in the 6pm opener in the five-team tournament, while host Palau was slated to meet Yap in the second match at 8pm. Results of last night's games were unavailable at press time.

The Preston Basa-coached CNMI arrived in Palau for the six-day tournament last



Friday and spent the weekend holding training sessions in Koror. The Commonwealth brought 12 players, two coaches, and a manager for the regional event. The team is led by center Jester Kintaro, while other members are N-nes Siech, Ron Atalig, Dean Blake, Jerald Castillo, Aiferson Atan, Jeffrey Castro, Jethro Cruz, Gregory Sablan Jr., Troy Ngirarois, Roberto Paragados Jr., and Keoni Rios. Omar Ajoste is the assistant coach, while Greg Iginoef is

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